

LIVE BLOG: Israel Kills Family of 11 in Zaytoun as Witkoff Heads to Region – Day 745

October 18, 2025 Blog, News



Grief and tears as the body of Youssef Zakaria Al-Yaacoubi from Rafah is laid to rest, after being returned in the recent exchange deal. (Photo: Mahmoud Bassam, via QNN)

Share

Tweet

Pin

Email

By Palestine Chronicle



Staff

A Palestinian woman was injured after Israeli occupation drones opened fire on residents in the town of Abasan al-Kabira, east of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza.

Meanwhile, according to Axios, US envoy Steve Witkoff is expected to travel to the Middle East on Sunday to follow up on the implementation of the Gaza ceasefire and reconstruction agreement.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has killed 67,967 and injured 170,179 others, the majority of whom are women and children, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza.

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

Sat, Oct 18, 11:01 PM (Palestine Time)

Israel Bombed Its Own People and Uses Their Bodies as Political Chips against Gaza

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: After having relentlessly bombarded Gaza for over two years, the Israelis insidiously use the remains of their own dead in order to threaten restarting the genocide.

Sat, Oct 18, 10:50 PM (Palestine Time)

Witkoff and Kushner to Draft Plan for Hamas Disarmament

ISRAELI MEDIA: According to Israeli Channel 12, citing American officials, the United States will be “deeply involved” in developments in Gaza.

US envoy Steve Witkoff and presidential adviser Jared Kushner will focus during their upcoming visit on continuing efforts to locate the bodies of Israeli captives and on establishing an international stabilization force in Gaza.

They reportedly requested that Israel allow a Turkish team to assist in the search for bodies and emphasized that Washington “will not allow Israel to reduce humanitarian aid to the Strip.”

The two will also work on formulating a plan for the disarmament of Hamas and Gaza.

Sat, Oct 18, 10:50 PM (Palestine Time)

Haaretz: Israel to Deport Foreign Activists in Solidarity with Palestinians

ISRAELI MEDIA: Haaretz reported that Israel will deport 32 foreign activists on Sunday after detaining them during an olive harvest in the village of Burin, in the occupied West Bank.

Sat, Oct 18, 10:50 PM (Palestine Time)

Netanyahu: War Will End Once Hamas Is Disarmed

NETANYAHU: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes in Gaza — said the war will conclude only after the completion of the second phase of the ceasefire agreement, which involves the disarmament of Hamas.

Sat, Oct 18, 9:19 PM (Palestine Time)

Hamas Confirms It Does Not Seek to Participate in Gaza’s Governance Arrangements

HAMAS: Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem stated that the movement does not wish to take part in any administrative arrangements concerning the governance of the Gaza Strip.

He said Hamas agreed to form a Community Support Committee to assume governing responsibilities in Gaza and called for accelerating its establishment until a broader administrative body is agreed upon by all Palestinian factions.

Qassem noted that government institutions in Gaza continue to perform their duties, emphasizing that “any vacuum is extremely dangerous.”

He added that discussions are underway with mediators to prepare for the second phase of negotiations, describing it as “complex,” and said that efforts have begun to shape a unified national position on key issues.

Sat, Oct 18, 9:19 PM (Palestine Time)

Al-Qassam Brigades Announce They Will Hand Over Two Bodies to Israel Today

AL-QASSAM BRIGADES: The Al-Qassam Brigades announced that they will hand over two bodies of Israeli captives recovered earlier today in the Gaza Strip.

Sat, Oct 18, 9:19 PM (Palestine Time)

Hamas: West Bank Resistance Will Not Break

HAMAS: Hamas said that the Tubas operation reaffirms that resistance in the West Bank “will neither break nor fade.”

Sat, Oct 18, 8:18 PM (Palestine Time)

‘All Kinds of Torment’ – Released Al-Awda Hospital Director Details Israeli Abuse of Doctors in Detention

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: The recently released director of Al-Awda Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, Dr. Ahmed Muhanna, revealed harrowing details of his nearly two-year detention by Israeli forces, accusing the occupation of deliberately targeting medical staff and subjecting detainees to severe abuse.

Sat, Oct 18, 7:35 PM (Palestine Time)

Gaza Accuses Netanyahu of Obstructing Agreement, Urges Mediator Intervention

GAZA GOVERNMENT MEDIA OFFICE: The Gaza Government Media Office accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of obstructing the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and continuing to close border crossings and block food entry. The office called on guarantor parties to intervene immediately to compel Israel to fulfill its obligations under the agreement.

Sat, Oct 18, 7:35 PM (Palestine Time)

Netanyahu Orders Rafah Crossing to Remain Closed

ISRAELI MEDIA: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructed that the Rafah border crossing remain closed until further notice, stating that it will not reopen until Hamas fulfills its commitments to return the bodies of Israeli captives.

Sat, Oct 18, 7:35 PM (Palestine Time)

Two Israeli Soldiers Injured in Explosion in Northern West Bank

ISRAELI MEDIA: Israeli media reported that at least two soldiers were injured when resistance fighters detonated an explosive device targeting Israeli troops in Tubas, northern occupied West Bank.

Sat, Oct 18, 7:32 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Restaurant Chain Closes in Washington amid Boycott Campaign

HAARETZ: The Israeli restaurant chain “Shouk” has closed all its branches in Washington, D.C., due to growing boycott pressure.

Sat, Oct 18, 7:32 PM (Palestine Time)

Gaza Government Media Office: 47 Israeli Violations Since Ceasefire

GAZA GOVERNMENT MEDIA OFFICE: The Gaza Government Media Office reported that the Israeli occupation committed 47 violations since the ceasefire took effect, including shootings, bombings, and civilian arrests. These attacks were carried out using tanks, drones, and other military equipment and were recorded in all Gaza governorates.

Sat, Oct 18, 7:32 PM (Palestine Time)

Gaza Health Ministry: 28 Palestinians Killed, 143 Wounded Since Ceasefire

GAZA HEALTH MINISTRY: The Gaza Health Ministry said that 29 Palestinians have been confirmed killed since the ceasefire took effect—23 recovered from under rubble, two who succumbed to wounds, and four killed by direct Israeli attacks. It added that 143 Palestinians were injured over the past 48 hours, bringing the overall toll since October 7, 2023, to 68,116 killed and 170,200 injured.

Sat, Oct 18, 7:29 PM (Palestine Time)

‘They Want Dignity, Not Just Aid’: UN Aid Coordinator Describes Gaza as ‘Wasteland’

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: In an interview with Al-Araby, UN Humanitarian Coordinator Tom Fletcher described Gaza as a “wasteland” and said restoring basic services after two years of Israeli bombardment will be a “massive job.”

Sat, Oct 18, 3:11 PM (Palestine Time)

Gaza Rights Center Condemns Israel’s Deadly Attacks

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: The Gaza Center for Human Rights strongly condemned the continued “bloody attacks” carried out by the Israeli occupation on the Gaza Strip, the latest of which was the targeting of a vehicle that killed 11 civilians from a single family.

The center described the attack as a “blatant and deliberate violation” of the ceasefire agreement that came into effect on October 10, stressing that Israel is acting “as if the ceasefire does not exist.”

Sat, Oct 18, 3:11 PM (Palestine Time)

Gaza Health Ministry Receives 15 Palestinian Bodies from Israel

GAZA HEALTH MINISTRY: The Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza announced on Saturday that it received the bodies of 15 Palestinians from the Israeli occupation authorities via the International Committee of the Red Cross. In a statement, the ministry said this brings the total number of Palestinian bodies received to 135.

Sat, Oct 18, 2:50 PM (Palestine Time)

‘Irreparable Arm’: US Judge Bars Israel’s NSO Group from Spying on WhatsApp Users

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: A US federal judge issued a permanent injunction against the Israeli spyware company NSO Group on Friday, prohibiting it from ever targeting WhatsApp or its users again.

Sat, Oct 18, 2:29 PM (Palestine Time)

ChatGPT ha detto: Families of Detained Medical Staff in Gaza Demand Their Release

AL-JAZEERA: Families of Palestinian medical personnel detained in Israeli prisons held a protest in southern Gaza on Saturday, demanding the release of their relatives after nearly two years of enforced disappearance under harsh detention conditions.

The demonstration, organized at Nasser Medical Complex with the participation of the Ministry of Health, featured banners and photos of detained doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers.

According to the Gaza Government Media Office, Israel has detained 362 medical staff members during the two-year genocide, including 88 doctors, 132 nurses, 72 medical assistants, and 47 administrative employees in the health sector.

Sat, Oct 18, 2:29 PM (Palestine Time)

Bodies of 14 Palestinians Recovered from Various Areas of Gaza City

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: Medical sources in Gaza reported that 14 bodies of Palestinians were recovered from different areas of Gaza City on Saturday morning.

Sat, Oct 18, 2:29 PM (Palestine Time)

US Vice President JD Vance and Envoy Steve Witkoff to Visit Israel Next Week

ISRAELI MEDIA: The Israeli Broadcasting Authority quoted an Israeli official as saying that US Vice President JD Vance and US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff are expected to arrive in Israel next week. The visit aims to support and advance President Donald Trump's plan to end the war in Gaza.

Sat, Oct 18, 2:29 PM (Palestine Time)

Palestinian Official Outlines Comprehensive Care Plan for Orphans in Gaza

AL-JAZEERA: Dr. Riyad Al-Bitar, Assistant Undersecretary of the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development, said Gaza needs at least five new orphan care homes and urgent financial sponsorships for orphans and their caretakers.

In an interview with Al-Jazeera, Al-Bitar explained that before the war there were 17,000 orphans, but their number has more than tripled during Israel's genocide, reaching 57,000.

He added that 40,000 children lost one or both parents, and some were left as the only survivors in their families.

Sat, Oct 18, 2:25 PM (Palestine Time)

What Lies beneath the Rubble: 57,000 Orphans and Gaza's Unbelievable Poverty Rate

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: The Israeli war on the Gaza Strip has more than tripled the number of orphaned children, raising the total to an estimated 57,000, according to a Gaza government official.

Sat, Oct 18, 1:18 PM (Palestine Time)

Nine Palestinians Recovered following Israeli Strike on Displaced Civilians in Gaza City

GAZA'S CIVIL DEFENSE: Gaza's Civil Defense announced that the bodies of nine Palestinians were recovered after an Israeli airstrike targeted displaced civilians in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood on Thursday.

Sat, Oct 18, 1:18 PM (Palestine Time)

Israel Delays Entry of Agreed Humanitarian Aid into Gaza

AL-JAZEERA: Israel continues to delay the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza despite prior agreements. Al Jazeera correspondent Ashraf Abu Amra reported that empty trucks remain stalled at the Kissufim crossing, east of Rafah, awaiting permission to enter and load food supplies.

Sat, Oct 18, 12:36 PM (Palestine Time)

Samaritans of the Resistance – Nader Sadaqa, a Palestinian Jewish Prisoner Freed by Israel

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: The recent prisoner exchange agreement, part of Gaza ceasefire outlined in the Trump plan to end the genocide in the Gaza Strip, brought a prominent and complex figure into the limelight: Nader Sadaqa.

Sat, Oct 18, 12:36 PM (Palestine Time)

Red Cross: Identifying Remains in Gaza Extremely Difficult

EL PAIS: The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) told the Spanish newspaper El País that it is very difficult to confirm the identities of remains recovered in Gaza due to the massive destruction across the Strip. He called for opening the crossings and allowing humanitarian aid to reach Gaza's residents.

Sat, Oct 18, 12:36 PM (Palestine Time)

Excavations Continue in Khan Yunis to Recover Israeli Captives' Bodies

AL-JAZEERA: Excavation operations are continuing in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza, in search of the bodies of Israeli captives. The work is being carried out with limited equipment and modest capabilities, according to Al Jazeera correspondent Hani Al-Shaer, who reported on the latest developments from the site.

Sat, Oct 18, 12:36 PM (Palestine Time)

Red Cross Receives Fourth Batch of Palestinian Bodies

AL-JAZEERA: Al Jazeera's correspondent reported that Red Cross vehicles arrived at the Kissufim crossing to collect the fourth batch of Palestinian bodies returned by Israel.

Sat, Oct 18, 12:04 PM (Palestine Time)

The Beauty of Sumud – Banging on the Walls of the Tank: Dispatches from Gaza – Book Review

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: I begin with the proviso that this review is of a book written by my beloved friend, Haidar Eid, acknowledging the backdrop of the genocide in Gaza. Wherever we travel, we are confronted with the hauntology (the absence of presence) on the land. At the heart of the genocide, Haidar Eid offers us another view, "I am there, but not there"

Read [the book review by Nadira Omarjee](#).

Sat, Oct 18, 11:50 AM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Army Massacres Abu Shaaban Family in Gaza's Zaytoun Neighborhood

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: Hamas urged US President Donald Trump and mediators to hold Israel accountable after an Israeli strike killed 11 members of the Abu Shaaban family in Gaza's Zaytoun neighborhood, in a deliberate massacre of civilians.

Sat, Oct 18, 11:30 AM (Palestine Time)

UN Official: Scale of Destruction in Gaza "Unbelievable"

UNITED NATIONS:

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs told Al Jazeera that the extent of destruction in Gaza "is beyond belief," saying that "everything has been leveled to the ground."

He explained that the 60-day plan includes first allowing aid entry, providing bread, tents, and sanitation, as well as restoring hospital and school operations.

"We need all crossings into Gaza opened," he said, adding that thousands of trucks are required and their entry is beginning to make a visible difference. "The responsibilities on our shoulders are enormous at this stage," he concluded.

Sat, Oct 18, 11:30 AM (Palestine Time)

Aid Trucks Observed Moving Near Kissufim Crossing

AL-JAZEERA: Ashraf Abu Amra reported increased movement of aid trucks near the Kissufim crossing area en route to the Gaza Strip.

Sat, Oct 18, 11:30 AM (Palestine Time)

170,000 Wounded in Gaza in Need of Surgery

AL-JAZEERA: The Director of the Medical Relief Society in Gaza City said that 170,000 wounded Palestinians are in need of surgical operations that cannot be performed due to the lack of medical equipment.

He added that Israel has completely closed Gaza's border crossings since March 2, blocking the entry of food, medicine, and essential supplies.

Thousands of aid trucks remain stalled on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing, as Israel continues to refuse its reopening, linking it to the return of remaining Israeli captives' bodies.

Sat, Oct 18, 10:37 AM (Palestine Time)

UNRWA: 8,000 Teachers Ready to Resume Education in Gaza

UNRWA: UNRWA said that over 8,000 of its teachers are ready to help children return to learning and resume education in Gaza. In a statement, the agency stressed it is "the largest humanitarian organization in Gaza and must be allowed to operate without obstacles."

Sat, Oct 18, 10:37 AM (Palestine Time)

US Officers to Establish Command Center Near Gaza to Coordinate International Forces

ISRAELI MEDIA: Israel's Channel 13 reported that US officers will establish a command center near Gaza to manage international forces tasked with locating the bodies of Israeli captives.

Sat, Oct 18, 10:37 AM (Palestine Time)

Hamas: Israel Committed Massacre Against Abu Shaaban Family

HAMAS STATEMENT:

Hamas said Israel committed a massacre against the Abu Shaaban family when it targeted their vehicle as they tried to check their home in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood.

Hamas urged US President Donald Trump and mediators to hold Israel accountable for violating the ceasefire agreement and demanded the international community prosecute Israeli leaders for war crimes and genocide.

Earlier, Gaza's Civil Defense reported that 11 members of the family were killed when their civilian vehicle was struck without warning after crossing what Israel calls the "yellow line."

Sat, Oct 18, 10:37 AM (Palestine Time)

World Food Programme Lists Main Obstacles to Gaza Aid Delivery

WFP: The World Food Programme (WFP) outlined the main obstacles hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

Sat, Oct 18, 10:37 AM (Palestine Time)

Survey: Only 13% of Israelis Believe in Complete Victory in Gaza War

ISRAELI MEDIA: A Maariv poll showed that 46% of Israelis believe Israel achieved only a partial victory in Gaza, 13% think it achieved a full victory, and 35% say Israel did not win at all.

Sat, Oct 18, 10:37 AM (Palestine Time)

UN Mine Action Official: Clearing Gaza of Unexploded Ordnance Will Take Years

UNITED NATIONS MAS: The head of the UN Mine Action Service said the risks of unexploded ordnance in Gaza are increasing after the ceasefire and that clearance operations will take a long time but are essential for the gradual restoration of normal life.

Sat, Oct 18, 10:37 AM (Palestine Time)

11 Palestinians Killed in Israeli Shelling of Gaza

GAZA CIVIL DEFENSE: Gaza's Civil Defense confirmed that 11 Palestinians were killed in Israeli artillery fire as they attempted to return to their home in Gaza City.

HAMAS: Hamas said Israel committed another massacre by targeting the Abu Shaaban family in Gaza City's Zaytoun neighborhood, killing 11 people. The movement described the attack as a "premeditated crime" against civilians.

Fri, Oct 17, 11:42 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Army Confirms Red Cross En Route to Receive Body of Captive

ISRAELI ARMY: The Israeli army said that the Red Cross is on its way to receive the body of an Israeli captive in the southern Gaza Strip.

Fri, Oct 17, 11:42 PM (Palestine Time)

Palestinian Woman Shot by Israeli Forces in Khan Younis

WAFA: A Palestinian woman was injured after Israeli occupation drones opened fire on residents in the town of Abasan al-Kabira, east of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza.

Fri, Oct 17, 11:42 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Military Official: Army Facing Severe Manpower Shortage

ISRAELI MEDIA: A senior Israeli military official told the Israeli Broadcasting Authority that the army is suffering from a severe shortage of personnel, calling for an extension of mandatory service periods.

Fri, Oct 17, 11:42 PM (Palestine Time)

Al-Qassam Brigades to Hand Over Body of Israeli Captive Tonight

AL-QASSAM BRIGADES: The Al-Qassam Brigades announced that they will hand over the body of an Israeli captive recovered earlier today in Gaza at 11 PM local time.

Fri, Oct 17, 11:42 PM (Palestine Time)

US CENTCOM Commander Visits Israel

ISRAELI MEDIA: The Israeli Broadcasting Authority reported that US Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander Brad Cooper is visiting Israel to participate in activating mechanisms for implementing the Gaza ceasefire.

Fri, Oct 17, 11:42 PM (Palestine Time)

Israel Preparing to Receive Another Batch of Captive Bodies Tonight

ISRAELI MEDIA: Israeli media outlets revealed that security agencies are preparing to receive another batch of the bodies of Israeli captives from Gaza tonight.

Fri, Oct 17, 11:42 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Army Recommends against Returning to Combat in Gaza

ISRAELI MEDIA: The Israeli army and security agencies have reportedly advised against resuming combat operations in the Gaza Strip, recommending instead the use of alternative means of pressure on Hamas.

Fri, Oct 17, 8:28 PM (Palestine Time)

US Democrat, Seth Moulton, to Return AIPAC Donations, Refuses Future Support

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: Democratic member of the US Congress, Seth Moulton, who is running for the Senate in Massachusetts, has announced that he will return donations received from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and will no longer accept support from the group.

Fri, Oct 17, 8:28 PM (Palestine Time)

Netanyahu Seeks to Bring Forward Election Date

ISRAELI MEDIA: The Israeli Broadcasting Authority reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking to move the date of the general elections forward from November to June of next year.

Fri, Oct 17, 8:28 PM (Palestine Time)

US Urges Israel to Give Mediators Time to Resolve Captive Bodies Crisis

ISRAELI MEDIA: According to the Israeli Broadcasting Authority, Washington has asked Israel not to violate the ceasefire agreement and to allow mediators time to resolve the issue of the bodies of Israeli captives held in Gaza.

Fri, Oct 17, 8:09 PM (Palestine Time)

As Global Public Pressure Mounts on Israel, Barcelona Leads the Way

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: Throughout the two years of genocide in Gaza, Barcelona's political and social support for the Palestinian struggle and its criticism of Israel's actions have only strengthened.

Read [the latest article by John McAuley, reporting from Barcelona](#).

Fri, Oct 17, 8:09 PM (Palestine Time)

Witkoff to Visit Region Sunday to Follow Up on Gaza Agreement

AXIOS: According to Axios, US envoy Steve Witkoff is expected to travel to the Middle East on Sunday to follow up on the implementation of the Gaza ceasefire and reconstruction agreement.

Fri, Oct 17, 7:40 PM (Palestine Time)

Who Is Husni al-Mughni, Gaza's Tribal Elder Standing Firm against Division – Profile

PALESTINE CHRONICLE: The Mukhtar, or as some like to call him, "the Mukhtar of the Mukhtars," is the head of the Higher Commission for Palestinian Tribes, the largest tribal assembly, in Gaza, who has defended the crackdown on Israeli-backed gangs in the enclave.