



November 27, 2023

Key Resources From Jewish Federations

- Join a **JDC Webinar**, focusing on the organization's efforts to respond to the current crisis: Wednesday, November 29th at noon (ET). [Register here](#).
- **Arab and Jewish Israelis joint responses**: Join this webinar to hear from Shira Ohana and Hanan Alsanah about inspiring joint emergency responses from the earliest days of the war, and what they are doing today to preserve a shared future for all residents of the Negev. November 28, 12 noon ET. [Register here](#).
- Additional resources can be found at the end of this update.

Hostage Release

- As part of a deal negotiated by Qatar (with assistance from the United States and Egypt) **39 Israeli hostages have now been released** from Hamas captivity and have been reunited with their families in Israel, in three separate groups, over the last three days.
- The hostages set free have mainly been **young children, their mothers, and elderly women**. In addition, one young man with dual Israeli-Russian citizenship, Roni Krivoi, was released as a gesture to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Krivoi initially managed to escape from Hamas and hide in Gaza for four days before being recaptured. Krivoi had initially been held in a building that ended up collapsing as a result of IDF airstrikes and then managed to make it out and flee. He then hid alone for several days, but Gazan residents captured him and returned him to Hamas.
- As well as the Israeli hostages, some 18 **foreign laborers**, mainly from Thailand, have also been released, while 15 more Thai workers remain captive.
- An additional set of 11 hostages may be released later today.
- In exchange for those let out, **Israel has released** 117 terrorists from prison and granted a four-day ceasefire. Those released were all women and under-18 minors, many serving sentences for attempted murder, stabbings, and other terror attacks.
- If Hamas agrees to release additional prisoners, Israel will let out three imprisoned terrorists for every hostage, as well as grant an additional day of ceasefire for every 10 hostages let go.
- While each release has been received with immense joy; **celebrations are often bittersweet**. Almost all of the hostages still have immediate family members being held in Gaza, and most have come out to discover that loved ones had been killed

on October 7.

- Despite the hostage deal stipulating that minors would be released together with their mothers, Hila Rotem, 13 years old, returned Saturday night from captivity alone. She told Israeli media today that her mother was present with her during the entire period of captivity, except for the last two days. " Hamas separated us two days before the liberation," she said.
- Most hostages have been released in **reasonable health**, although many had lost considerable weight. See [emerging details](#) on their conditions in captivity.
- Nonetheless, one of the hostages, 84-year-old Elma Avraham, was returned in **critical condition** and is now fighting for her life in Beer Sheba's Soroka hospital. Her family says that she was not given critical medications during her captivity and was mistreated.
- Israel has said that the last-minute confusion, stalling, misinformation and uncertainty surrounding each release is a **psychological warfare** tactic being used by Hamas.
- See more in "Stories," below.
- A [new opinion poll](#) shows that the majority of Israelis see the release of the hostages as the number one goal of the war, followed by toppling Hamas.

Israel Defense Forces Operations

- As part of the hostage deal, Israel has **paused all operations** in Gaza. The deal also includes six hours per day when Israel suspends drone movement over Gaza.
- The IDF says that it will continue its war on Hamas, to eliminate the terror organization, as soon as the ceasefire expires.
- Hamas announced on Sunday that the **IDF eliminated** the Commander of the Northern Brigade Ahmad Al Ghandour and the Commander of the Rocket Division Ayman Siam a few weeks ago. Al Ghandour was one of the senior members of the terrorist organization, and leader of the armed forces in one of five regions in Gaza, and has been in his position for at least 18 years, and is a key personality in the organization's hierarchy. [See more here](#).
- Just before the cease-fire took effect, the IDF confirmed that it had arrested the director of **Shifa Hospital**. The IDF said that the director was apprehended and taken in for questioning following evidence showing that the Hospital, under his direct management, served as a Hamas command and control center. An underground tunnel and numerous supply caches belonging to Hamas have been located in the hospital since the IDF entered the building last week. IDF footage of the building proves that the terrorists made their way to the hospital, bringing the hostages with them. The attack itself, it is believed, was planned in the hospital. The IDF has since published additional footage from some of the tunnels under the hospital, including blast doors, command centers, functional sinks and restrooms, and evidence that the hostages were held there for some time.
- Israel's Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu visited Gaza** yesterday, where he received security briefings with commanders and soldiers and visited one of the tunnels that has been uncovered. "We are here in the Gaza Strip with our heroic soldiers. We are making every effort to return our hostages, and in the end, we will return them all. We have three goals in this war: Eliminate Hamas, return all of our hostages, and ensure that Gaza will not go back to being a threat to the State of Israel. I am here to tell the soldiers, who all tell me the same thing, and I repeat it to you, citizens of Israel: We are continuing until the end – until victory. Nothing

will stop us, and we are convinced that we have the force, the strength, the will, and the determination to achieve all of our goals for the war, and this is what we will do." [See more here](#).

- The IDF coordinated the entry of 200 trucks of **humanitarian aid** into the Gaza Strip, 42 of which were loaded with shelter equipment ([see photos](#)). As part of this aid, some 3,600 tons of tents, blankets, and mattresses have been transferred to the civilian population ahead of the winter. Over 2,000 trucks have entered the Gaza Strip since the start of the war, transferring water, food, supplies, and medical equipment.
- While **Hezbollah** is not a formal party to the ceasefire agreement, the Lebanese terror group has also refrained from firing rockets at Israel since the deal began.
- The Hamas-run Gazan Health Ministry says that over 13,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 7, as a result of the war.

International Response

- **US President Joe Biden** spoke on the phone with relatives of the 4-year-old Israeli-American who was released from Hamas captivity. Avigail Idan was freed on Sunday, over 50 days after Hamas terrorists murdered her parents in Kibbutz Kfar Azza. Idan saw her mother Smadar killed in front of her and then ran to her father Roei who shielded her with his body as terrorists shot him dead. She then ran to a neighbor's home, where she was kidnapped along with the others inside.
- Israel's President Isaac Herzog today welcomed **President of Germany** Frank-Walter Steinmeier who is making a solidarity visit to Israel. The German Chancellor visited Israel on a similar mission last month.
- The **Prime Minister of Ireland** has been widely condemned for tweeting that the Israeli hostage children were "lost" and had now been "found," as opposed to "kidnapped." [Read more](#).
- Tech leader and X owner **Elon Musk** arrived in Israel today to meet with Israeli politicians and victims of the October 7 attacks. Musk visited Kibbutz Kfar Azza - among the worst hit on October 7 - together with Prime Minister Netanyahu. Musk was shown some of the horrors of the Hamas attack and visited the home of the Israeli-American toddler Avigail Idan, 4, who was kidnapped to Gaza and was released yesterday as part of the hostage deal.

Stories Of Heartbreak, Heroism And Hope

- See [details, photos, and moving videos](#) of **hostages being reunited** with their families.
- Nine-year-old Irish-Israeli girl Emily Hand was among those released. Due to confusion, her family had originally been told that she had been killed. [Read more](#).
- More than 17,000 babies have been born in Israel since October 7, many given names like "Yisrael Chai," (Israel Lives). There have also been 45 called "Be'eri" (named after the Kibbutz that was hit so hard that day), and 3 called "Nova," after the Rave where hundreds of young people were murdered. [Read more](#).
- [Watch here](#) as released hostages Ohad Monder (aged 9), his mother Keren, and his grandmother Ruthie are reunited with Ohad's father at an Israeli hospital.
- Read about [HaOgen](#), an Israeli organization supporting families of those reserve soldiers called up during the current war. HaOgen has received funding from the Jewish Federations' Israel Emergency Fund.
- [Watch as Doron Asher](#) and her two toddler girls, Aviv (2.5) and Raz (4.5), released from Hamas captivity on Friday night, are reunited with the family's

father Yoni.

Further Reading

- [Op-ed](#) by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: "If Hamas and Iran win, the rest of the civilized world is next."
- Read Israeli First Lady Michal Herzog's [opinion piece](#) in *Newsweek*, expressing the sense of outrage and betrayal over the international community's failure to condemn the use of gender-based sexual violence by Hamas. The op-ed was published ahead of this year's International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and following the widespread testimonies and evidence of rape and molestation of dozens of women by Hamas terrorists in the attack on Israel on October 7.
- See [this background](#) on the legal aspects of hostage exchanges.
- [Read more](#) about the relationship between Hamas and Iran.

Additional Resources

- **Resources:** Readers can access a Jewish Federations toolkit of resources [here](#), and can refer to the Community Mobilization Center [Resource Hub](#) for the latest talking points, tools, and other resources.
- **Details:** For full details about the home front and military operations, see [this update](#). And for information on the latest overall numbers from the conflict, see [see here](#).
- **Webinar:** The Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI): Daily webinars sponsored by Jewish Federations and the Jewish Agency are offered. A rotating team of analysts of Israeli military affairs, the US-Israel relationship, Israel's political system, and of the country's diverse society will speak every Sunday to Thursday from 11-11:30 am ET. No registration is required. [Join here](#).
- **Jewish Federations** have now raised a total of more than \$659 million system-wide and allocated close to \$200 million to a wide range of humanitarian organizations in Israel. See our [impact stats](#).
- **Volunteering:** Read [this update](#) from Jewish Federations on the latest volunteering opportunities in Israel right now.
- **Supporting Pastoral Guidance and Rabbinic Services.** Read about [the work](#) that Federations are supporting in this field through collective Israel emergency dollars.
- **Local Authorities:** Jewish Federations have produced a document answering questions about funding-impacted localities and municipalities in Israel. [See here](#).
- **Map:** [This site](#) shows a map of the October 7 massacre with a red dot for every person killed and a black dot for every person abducted by Hamas. Clicking on any dot will show the name and picture (if available) of the victim with age and last known location.
- Read the latest communication from the **Community Mobilization Center** [here](#).
- **Funders:** As many funders struggle to distinguish between the multitudes of organizations looking for important resources, the Jewish Funders Network has produced [this thorough page](#) of guidance.
- **Previous updates** can be found [here](#).

JEWISH FEDERATIONS

Our Israel Office, having activated emergency protocols, is working closely with

our partners on the ground, and is in close contact with the Government of Israel and the IDF. We will continue to update you as the situation develops.