

## Israel at war: What you need to know – day 467

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### HAARETZ Israel at War

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Israel and Hamas have reached an agreement on a cease-fire and hostage deal, Israeli and Egyptian officials said. According to a draft seen by AP, Hamas will release 33 hostages, including female civilians and soldiers, children and civilians over the age of 50, in its first stage. The Israeli government is preparing to ratify the deal on Wednesday night or Thursday morning, a source told Haaretz. Israeli strikes within the humanitarian zone in Gaza have intensified since May 2024, according to a BBC analysis. Italy said it would not enforce the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants against Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Gallant. Three people were reportedly killed in an Israeli drone strike on a group of soldiers in southern Syria.

**Here's what you need to know 467 days into the war**

### What happened today



■ **HOSTAGES/CEASE-FIRE: A cease-fire and hostage release deal has been reached between Israel and Hamas.**

- **Qatar's PM Mohammed Al-Thani** will hold a press conference Wednesday night announcing the deal.
- The Israeli government is preparing to **meet Wednesday night or Thursday morning to ratify the cease-fire agreement with Hamas**, along with the list of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners to be released, a source told Haaretz, adding that Israel hopes that the first hostages will be freed at the beginning of next week, before U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration.
- U.S. President-elect Donald Trump posted: "**We have a deal for the hostages in the Middle East.** They will be released shortly. Thank you!" His incoming National Security Adviser Mike Waltz said the cease-fire was the result of the "Trump Effect."
- **According to a draft of the deal seen by AP**, Hamas will **release 33 hostages**, including female civilians and soldiers, children and civilians over the age of 50, in its first stage, **which**

**will last 42 days.** In exchange, **Israel would release 30 Palestinian prisoners for each civilian hostage and 50 for each female soldier.** Israeli forces will withdraw from populated areas to the edges of the Strip, additional aid will be sent and displaced Palestinians will begin returning home.

- On **day 16** of the agreement, negotiations will begin on the implementation of the **second phase which is planned to last 42 days** and will involve a declaration of "**sustainable calm.**" During this phase, Hamas will release the remaining male hostages (soldiers and civilians) in exchange for a yet-to-be-negotiated number of Palestinian prisoners and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.
- In the **third phase**, the bodies of dead Israeli hostages will be exchanged for the bodies of dead Hamas members. A reconstruction plan for Gaza will be implemented, and border crossings for movement in and out of the Strip will be reopened.
- The Hostages and Missing Families Forum said, "We anxiously await the reunions of families with their loved ones...**we will stand by the families until the very last hostage is brought home.**"
- PM Netanyahu **told hostages' families** Tuesday evening he is willing to agree to a prolonged cease-fire in Gaza in exchange for their loved ones' return, adding that a deal being secured is a matter of days or hours. On Thursday, Netanyahu again met with far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who publicly opposes the deal.

***"Sources within the incoming U.S. administration are consistently signaling that President-elect Trump is heading towards a potential Saudi normalization deal in which Palestinians would receive some form of diplomatic payoff – the complete opposite of the annexation that the Israeli far right believed was in its pocket. Soon enough, the far right that backed Trump to the hilt will realize that the incoming president has achieved everything the***

***Democratic administration couldn't force Netanyahu to do, even before Trump sets foot in the White House again"– Ravit Hecht***

- **Thailand and Nepal have increased their efforts to release their citizens** from Hamas captivity amid fears that foreign hostages will not be released in the first phase of the emerging deal, **Haaretz has learned**.
- A foreign official familiar with truce talks told Haaretz that **Israel believes that Hamas will release the foreign hostages in any event** – either during the first or second phases of the deal – as a gesture of goodwill toward those countries, as it did in the previous hostage release deal in November 2023.
- Far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir reiterated his claim that his party's "political power" blocked previous hostage deals, adding that he was "praying to see the hostages come home healthy, **praying to continue the war until total victory**."

■ **GAZA:** Israeli strikes within **the humanitarian zone in the Gaza Strip** have intensified since May 2024, with at least 22 attacks reported this month, an **analysis by the BBC** indicated. While the BBC was not able to confirm that all incidents were the result of IDF attacks, the analysis does show that at least **550 Palestinians have been killed in the 97 strikes** on the area.

- IDF officials have publicly acknowledged **28 such attacks** since May 6, 2024, but did not confirm involvement in the other documented strikes.
- The IDF ordered **residents of the Jabalya refugee camp in northern Gaza Strip to evacuate** to shelters in Gaza City ahead of an attack by Israeli forces.
- The Palestinian Authority must be the sole governing power in Gaza after the war, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa said, stressing that "any attempt to consolidate the separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, or creating transitional entities, will be rejected."