



# ***ISRAEL UPDATE***

with Pastor Trey Graham



November 26, 2023



Last Sunday's question...

Can we say "THANKS"  
even when we hurt?

Last Sunday...

# Say “THANKS” even when we hurt

- T Tell God you are hurting
- H Hold on to your faith
- A Ask for help
- N Never listen to the lies
- K Keep moving forward
- S Say it again... and again... and again



According to the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas - 239 chairs were set up at SMU to represent an empty Shabbat table of the Israeli hostages that are currently being held by Hamas. In addition, 1,400 Israeli flags were set up around the tables to represent those who died in Israel on October 7, 2023.

# The New York Times

## *Israel, Hamas Agree to Begin Cease-Fire Friday Morning*

Prodded by the U.S., Israel agreed to the pause in hostilities and the release of 150 imprisoned Palestinians in exchange for 50 hostages held in Gaza.



## The role that Qatar played in the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hamas

NOVEMBER 23, 2023 - 5:10 PM ET

HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

By Lauren Hodges, Tinbete Ermyas, Ari Shapiro

## Israel, Hamas agree on temporary cease-fire in Gaza Strip, release of 50 hostages

Israel and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas have agreed on a temporary cease-fire in the Gaza Strip as part of a deal that includes the release of 50 hostages, including three Americans. President Biden said he is "extraordinarily gratified" that some of the captives "will be reunited with their families once this deal is fully implemented."



# Who are the 13 Israeli hostages released by Hamas on Friday?

These are the identities of the 13 Israelis who were released from Hamas captivity Friday.

By GADI ZAIG

NOVEMBER 24, 2023 18:37 **Updated:** NOVEMBER 24, 2023 22:18



The thirteen hostages released from Gaza on Friday, November 24, 2023.  
(photo credit: The Jerusalem Post)

JP



**1<sup>st</sup> Group Released  
on Friday**

JP





**Ruth Munder, 78**



**Keren Munder, 54**



**Ohad Munder, 9**

**1<sup>st</sup> Group  
Released  
on Friday**



**Daniel Aloni, 45**



**Emilia Aloni, 5**



**Raz Katz, 4**



**Doron Katz, 34**



**Aviv Katz, 2**



**Adina Moshe, 72**



**Margalit Mozes, 78**



**Yaffa Adar, 85**



**Channa Perri, 79**



**Hanna Katzir, 77**

**HOSTAGES TRANSFERRED TO ISRAELI CUSTODY**



## Woman pleads for return of 85-year-old grandmother taken hostage in Gaza

An Israeli woman posts a heartfelt plea on social media with a photograph of her 85-year-old grandmother in the hands of Hamas terrorists in Gaza.

An unknown number of Israelis were captured in Israel and taken hostage by the terror group during their assault yesterday on Israeli border communities. The number is believed to be several dozen.

“This is my grandmother, she was captured and taken to Gaza,” writes Adva Adar on social media. “Her name is Yaffa Adar and she is 85!!”

**Do you remember?**

“My grandmother established the kibbutz with her own hands, believed in Zionism, in this country that has abandoned her, a hostage,” she writes. “She is apparently thrown somewhere, suffering from severe pain, without medication, without food and without water, dying of fear, alone.”







**Ayelet Azoury** · [Follow](#)

16h · 🌐

In the picture you can see Yaffa. Yaffa is 85 years old and was released today from Gaza. The picture shows when she is transferred to the Red Cross this afternoon. She has not seen the light of day since Oct 7. She survived the Holocaust during World War II, and today she survived it for the second time.



# 'Grandma is here, healthy and beautiful. Thank you people of Israel': Yaffa Adar reunites with family

Today, 11:25 am | 2

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL



Yaffa Adar reunites with a family member after she was released from Gaza, November 24, 2023. (Facebook, used in accordance with Clause 27a of the Copyright Law)

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/grandma-is-here-healthy-and-beautiful-thank-you-people-of-israel-yaffa-adar-reunites-with-family/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/grandma-is-here-healthy-and-beautiful-thank-you-people-of-israel-yaffa-adar-reunites-with-family/)



# 13 Israelis, including 8 children, freed by Hamas after 50 days held hostage in Gaza

On 2nd day of 4-day truce deal, 8 children, 4 moms, 1 young woman handed over by Hamas following long, unnerving delay; 4 Thai nationals also released; 195 hostages still held

By TOI STAFF

26 November 2023, 12:19 am | 1

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL



Israeli hostages released on November 25, 2023: Top from L-R: Sharon Avigdor and her daughter Noam, siblings Alma and Noam Or; middle: Hila Rotem, Emily Hand, Shiri Weiss and her daughter Noga; bottom: Adi Shoham and children Yahel and Naveh, Maya Regev, and Shoshan Haran. (Photos: Courtesy; combination image: Times of Israel)

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/13-israelis-including-8-kids-freed-by-hamas-after-50-days-as-gaza-hostages/>

## These are the 13 hostages released from Gaza on Saturday

Israel on Saturday confirmed the identities of 13 Gaza hostages released, bringing the total of hostages released as part of the truce deal to 26.

By YUVAL BARNEA

NOVEMBER 25, 2023 23:47

THE JERUSALEM POST



The thirteen hostages released from Gaza on Saturday, November 25, 2023  
(photo credit: The Jerusalem Post)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Group  
Released**



# RELEASED: Emily Hand, 9, Irish-Israeli girl whose family was initially told was killed

Emily was at a sleepover with friends when captured by Hamas at Kibbutz Be'eri and taken to Gaza for 50 days

By TOI STAFF

5 November 2023, 9:16 pm | Updated: 25 November 2023, 11:50 pm | 15



Irish-Israeli Emily Kornberg Hand, who was abducted by Hamas on October 7, 2023 and released on November 25, 2023. (Courtesy)





# This Week's Torah Portion

Jacob (whose name was later changed to Israel) said...

“Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me depart;”

Genesis 30:26

Family members of former hostages 85-year-old Yaffa Adar, and Ruthie Munder, Keren Munder and Ohad Munder Zichri — grandmother, mother and grandson — speak about their release and recovery process.

The family members speak about some of the conditions in Gaza. Keren Munder told her cousin, Merav Raviv, that they mostly ate rice and pita, and slept on rows of molded plastic seats, the kind used in waiting rooms.

“When they needed to use the bathroom, they would knock on the door, and sometimes they had to wait an hour and a half until they could go,” says Raviv.

The family members also speak about the great joy they all experienced at the return of their loved ones.

“I’m so proud to be her granddaughter,” says Adar. “I’m looking at her and the way she survived this and the strength she’s showing and the way she was able to still hold hope to be returned.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-november-26-2023/>



Following the release of 13 Israelis from Hamas captivity, Israeli news site N12 spoke with the families of those who returned to hear the stories their relatives have brought back from their time in Gaza. They reported that the hostages had been provided food during their time in captivity. The hostages reported that they had not been tortured or physically abused although the amount of food they had been given was minimal and they were often left to cook the food themselves as well as the children they were with. They said how their final two weeks had seen supplies running low, often leaving them with not much more than pita and small amounts of rice to eat.

One of the hostages, Hannah Katzir, who was also released, learned of her son's murder on one of the few occasions they would be permitted to listen to Israeli radio. It was upon her own release that she learned of how her husband had also been kidnapped and remained in Gaza. Some of the hostages spoke of their worry about last-minute attempts by Hamas or Gazans, who had thrown stones at the vehicle removing them to Egypt, to attack them. "Until the last moment we weren't sure, we thought they would lynch us on the way to Israel," a hostage said.





# What else is happening?

- Israel agreed to a 3-for-1 swap, exchanging innocent hostages for Palestinian prisoners charged with crimes
- A third group of Israeli hostages is scheduled to be released later today (Sunday)
- No American citizens have been released yet
- 15 non-Israeli citizens have been released so far (Thai and Filipino)
- 27 Israeli children are still being held hostage



# Palestinian families rejoice over release of minors and women in wartime prisoner swap



## Released Palestinian prisoners celebrated as they return to West Bank

From CNN's Celine Alkhalidi, Nada Bashir and Shirin Zia Faqiri



Released Palestinian prisoners arrive to Beitunia, west of Ramallah, with International Red Cross vehicles under the agreement on the four-day humanitarian pause in Ramallah, West Bank on November 24. Issam Rimawi/Anadolu/Getty Images

## Who are the Palestinian prisoners Israel released on Friday?

*Thirty-nine Palestinian women and children are expected to be released from Israeli jails on Friday during a pause in fighting.*



This image from November 21 shows relatives and supporters of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons staging a sit-in outside the Red Cross in Ramallah in the West Bank [Jaafar Ashtiyeh/AFP]



## Palestinian Released Prisoners - Grouped by committed action

Stabbing attack

8.1%

Shooting attack

10.1%

Other violences

6.4%

Terrorist contact

11.1%

Terrorist attempt

14.4%

Stones

15.1%

Other

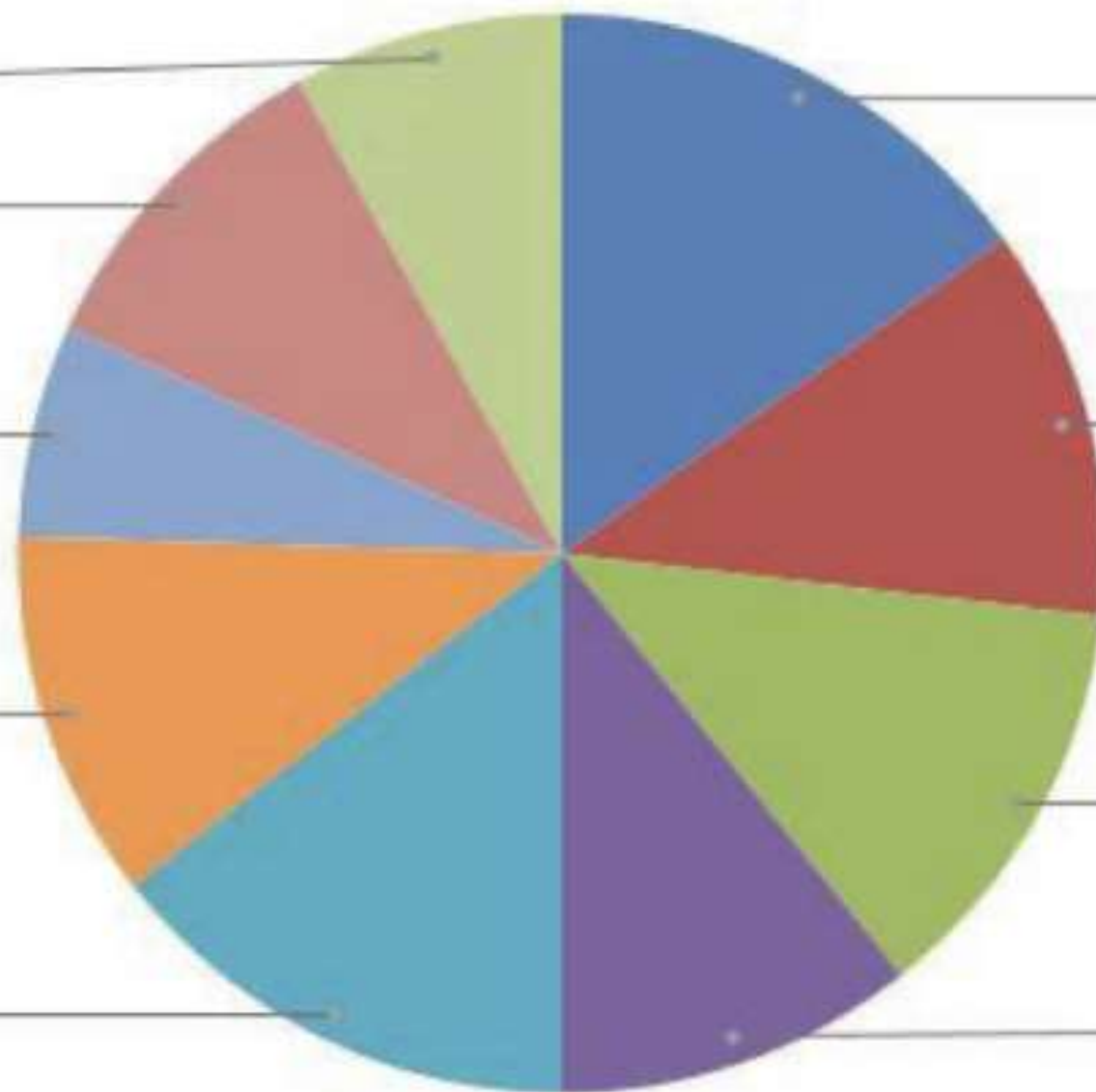
11.7%

Molotov cocktails

12.4%

Explosives

10.7%



# The Present and the Future

Isaiah 61



The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me [Isaiah prophetically speaks for the Messiah], because the Lord has anointed me [indicative of Messiah]... Isaiah 61:1a

\*All three Persons of the Trinity are referenced in this verse... Spirit, Lord God, Messiah (Son)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me **to  
bring good news to the afflicted;** He has  
sent me **to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to captives and  
freedom to prisoners** Isaiah 61:1



# “to bring good news to the afflicted”

The New York Times

## The Israeli hostages freed on Friday begin to reunite with their families.

The return to a normal life will be a long process, doctors say.



### Israelis rejoice as hostages, including children and seniors, are freed

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/world/israelis-rejoice-as-hostages-including-children-and-seniors-are-freed/video/e2e12edab5128f7cc507e2293fb02edf>



<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/25/world/middleeast/israel-hostages-families.html>

# “to bring good news to the afflicted”

## Uncertain about their own loved ones, families rejoice in 13 other hostages' release

By CANAAN LIDOR

25 November 2023, 12:11 am | 1

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL



Jimmy Miller attends a solidarity rally for the release of hostages on November 24, 2023 in Tel Aviv, Israel. (Canaan Lidor/Times of Israel)

Friday has been the happiest day in a long time for the family of Shiri Bibas, a mother of two boys younger than 4 whom Hamas terrorists abducted on October 7. **Bibas remains a hostage.** She is not among the 13 Israelis released from Gaza, and authorities have given her family no estimated time for her release. Her relatives are uplifted by the release of 13 other hostages, all of them women or children. It “fills our hearts with joy that we haven’t felt since this started,” Shiri Bibas’s cousin, Jimmy Miller, tells The Times of Israel.

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/uncertain-about-their-own-loved-ones-families-rejoice-in-13-other-hostages-release/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/uncertain-about-their-own-loved-ones-families-rejoice-in-13-other-hostages-release/)



# “to proclaim liberty to captives”

**This is the pilot that will be flying the hostages inside Israel, straight to the hospital. The decision was made that everyone involved with bringing the hostages out including the medical staff they will first see, will all be female.**



to proclaim the favorable year of the  
Lord and the day of vengeance of  
our God; to comfort all who mourn,  
Isaiah 61:2

\*Does this passage sound familiar?



And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all. And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. Luke 4:14-16

And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him [Jesus]. And He opened the book [Tanakh/Old Testament scroll] and found the place where it was written, Luke 4:17



Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-19

\*Yeshua quoted Isaiah 61, which had been written about 700 years previously.

\*This is of great significance to the Jewish reader who is familiar with the idea of a Torah cycle and the Haf-Tarah (Literally “completion of the Torah”, a portion selected from the prophets and writings) readings that correspond to specific Torah passages. An early tradition of making commentary on both portions developed in the first century and is still present in the rabbinical practice of today.

<https://www.bethmelekh.com/yaakovs-commentary/isaiah-61-beauty-for-ashes>

And He [Jesus] closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue [of Nazareth] were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:20-21

\*Isaiah was not capable of binding up the broken hearts of Israel, nor is any man: only God Himself could do that, and through His death and resurrection the King Messiah Yeshua has done and continues to do that very thing for all who receive Him.

to grant those who mourn in Zion [Jerusalem], giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness [joy] instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting [heaviness]. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. Isaiah 61:3

\*When Jesus read from this passage He stopped in the middle of the sentence, after the word “favor” (Luke 4:18–19). By doing this He was showing that His work would be divided into two advents. In His First Advent He did the things mentioned in Isaiah 61:1–2a; in His Second Advent He will do the things in verses 2b–3. When He returns He will bring judgment on unbelievers (Micah 5:15; Rev. 19:15–20); this will be the day of God’s “vengeance” (cf. Isa. 34:8; 35:4; 63:4). But the Messiah will also “comfort” Israel, for she will have undergone great persecution, the Great Tribulation, in the preceding years (cf. Dan. 7:21, 24–25; Rev. 12:13–17). – Bible Knowledge Commentary



# What Will God's People Do?

Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins,  
they will raise up the former  
devastations; and **they will repair the  
ruined cities**, the desolations of many  
generations. Isaiah 61:4

## 'This is my home': Israel's kibbutz communities look to rebuild after devastation of Hamas attack

"A lot of people aren't ready to come back" more permanently, one soldier told NBC News, though he believed they will "want to come back eventually."



Noam Mark at the Re'im kibbutz. Alexander Smith / NBC News



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Oct. 28, 2023, 9:08 AM CDT / Updated Oct. 28, 2023, 1:40 PM CDT

By Alexander Smith and Ohantal Da Silva



**NBC NEWS**

KIBBUTZIM RE'IM/BE'ERI, Israel — The tractors that recently dug graves are being prepared to farm again. Three weeks after the unprecedented Hamas attack in which residents of kibbutzim were tortured and butchered, some survivors are returning in an attempt to rebuild. Their ability to do so forms a question mark hanging over one of Israel's foundational movements and whether these collective, often-leftist communities that were central to the establishment of the Jewish state can ever truly recover. They must try to do so while processing their grief and horror, while the battle raging over Gaza just a few miles away lights up the skies and provides a cacophony of booms and thuds through the night, and while in some streets the stink of death still lingers. "This was a killing zone," says Noam Mark, 60, who used to manage the Re'im kibbutz. It was here that 260 people were killed trying to escape from the nearby Supernova music festival, and five of the roughly 600 kibbutzniks themselves were killed in the rampage. **Despite the chaos surrounding them, around 10 kibbutz residents have come back, determined to repair tractors, water crops — mainly potatoes and carrots — and begin to clear the debris, including militants' boots and fatigues and AK-47 bullet casings that still litter the streets.**

Strangers will stand and pasture your  
flocks, and foreigners will be your  
farmers and your vinedressers.

Isaiah 61:5



## Volunteers rush to Israeli farms stripped of workers after Hamas attack

Around 80 members of the US-based Jewish mothers' group, Momentum, answered the call to save Israel's harvest.

By REUTERS

NOVEMBER 16, 2023 16:53 **Updated:** NOVEMBER 16, 2023 16:54

THE JERUSALEM POST



Volunteers who have come to harvest cabbages, work on Israeli farms near the Gaza border since production stopped after the Hamas attack October 7th attack, in Patish, Israel November 8, 2023

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-773563>

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

## Volunteers Rush to Israeli Farms Stripped of Workers After Hamas Attack

By Reuters | Nov. 16, 2023, at 9:27 a.m.



An Israeli volunteer helps farmers from Kibbutz Beeri, Israel, to pick Avocados from their land as part of an initiative to help farmers from Kibbutzes in Israel near the border with Gaza to pick the crops after the October 7 deadly attack by Hamas gunmen from Gaza in the Kibbutzes around, November 15, 2023 REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko REUTERS

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2023-11-16/volunteers-rush-to-israeli-farms-stripped-of-workers-after-hamas-attack>

After Messiah comes the second time...

But you [Israel] will be called the priests of the Lord; you will be spoken of as ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. Isaiah 61:6

After Messiah comes the second time...

Instead of your shame you [Israel] will have a double portion [as the elder son], and instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land, everlasting joy will be theirs. Isaiah 61:7



For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery in the burnt offering; and I will faithfully give them their recompense and make an everlasting covenant with them. Then their offspring will be known among the nations [Gentiles], and their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are the offspring whom the Lord has blessed.

Isaiah 61:8-9

I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Isaiah 61:10

**More than 200 Muslim men  
in Gaza received Jesus  
recently because all 200  
had dreams of Jesus in the  
same night. Praise God!**



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## Supernatural Move of God in Gaza as Hundreds Reportedly Meet Jesus in Dreams

TALIA WISE

11-20-2023

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For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes the things sown  
in it to spring up, so the Lord God will  
cause righteousness and praise to spring  
up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:11

Today's question...

What does Jesus promise  
to those who seek Him?

# What does Jesus our Messiah, the Anointed One, promise to those who seek Him?

- to bring good news to the afflicted
- to bind up the brokenhearted
- to proclaim liberty to captives
- to proclaim freedom to prisoners
- to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord
- to proclaim the day of vengeance of our God
- to comfort all who mourn
- to grant those who mourn in Zion... the oil of gladness instead of mourning



**What does Jesus our Messiah, the  
Anointed One, promise to those  
who seek Him?**

Spiritual freedom... salvation

# Let's pray Psalm 20 together

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high! May He send you help from the sanctuary and support you from Zion! May He remember all your meal offerings and find your burnt offering acceptable! May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your counsel! We will sing for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions. Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God. They have bowed down and fallen, but we have risen and stood upright. Save, O Lord; may the King answer us in the day we call.