



RELEASED HOSTAGE Guy Gilboa-Dalal is surrounded by his family at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva on Monday. (Boaz Oppenheim/GPO/Handout via Reuters)

MOST CROWDED HOURS IN NATION'S HISTORY

Nation elated as living hostages return home

Trump gives celebratory address at Knesset • Hamas sends four more bodies of deceased hostages last night after Israel implements punitive measures when only 4 bodies returned on Monday

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB
and Jerusalem Post Staff

In a historic day for the State of Israel, Hamas on Monday returned all the remaining 20 live hostages it had held captive for two years while US President Donald Trump, who helped broker the deal, arrived in the country for a celebratory visit, delivering a speech for the occasion at the Knesset plenum.

In a later development that cast a shadow over the day, only four out of the 28 deceased hostages were returned by Hamas on Monday. However, Hamas sent four more bodies last night

after Israel implemented punitive measures.

In response to Hamas's delay in returning the deceased hostages, Israel had reduced some of the humanitarian aid being sent to Gaza.

It also closed the Rafah crossing, with threats to escalate in other ways if the terrorist group did not live up to returning the deceased at a reasonable pace per the agreed-upon ceasefire deal.

Separately, Hamas's terrorist have yet to publicly commit to laying down their arms. In this respect, Trump said at the White House on Tuesday that "if they don't disarm, we will disarm them."

And it will happen quickly and perhaps violently."

On it's part, Hamas had said on Monday that it did not know where all of the hostages' remains were and that some bodies would take longer to locate due to the war-torn conditions in Gaza.

Yet Israel, the US, and other involved countries still expected to receive more than four bodies on Monday.

For its part, Israel turned over around 2,000 Palestinian security prisoners to Hamas, including around 250 who were sentenced to life in prison.

Most were sent to Gaza, while others were sent to the

West Bank, Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey.

The hostages released on Monday came in two waves.

The first seven hostages to be released, around 9 a.m., were Matan Angrest, Alon Ohel, Eitan Mor, Gali and Ziv Berman, Omri Miran, and Guy Gilboa-Dalal.

The second round of returned hostages included: Bar Abraham Kupershtein, Eyyatar David, Yosef-Chaim Ohana, Segev Kalfon, Avinatan Or, Elkana Bohbot, Maxim Herkin, Nimrod Cohen, Matan Zangauker, Eitan Horn, Rom Braslavski, Ariel Cunio, and David Cunio.

The released hostages underwent a medical assessment and then were sent to Shiba, Ichilov, and Beilinson hospitals to reunite with their families.

All of the live hostages were stable enough medically that they did not require an emergency evacuation.

The celebratory day continued as Trump was honored at the Knesset and gave an address emphasizing the prospects for peace throughout the entire Middle East.

After this speech, Trump flew to a summit of world leaders at Sharm el-Sheikh, where Egyptian President Sisi said that US President Donald

Trump's Gaza proposal was the "last chance" for peace in the region and reiterated his call for a two-state solution.

Hamas was excluded from the discussions on the future of Gaza. Still, Trump had invited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to attend, with Netanyahu reportedly declining to avoid making concessions on the spot.

Later in the day in Israel, when the public learned that only four of 28 deceased hostages would be returned on Monday, the Hostage Forum expressed outrage.

"This is a blatant violation

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‘Everyone will join Abraham Accords,’ Trump says at summit

• Reuters, Jerusalem Post Staff, and Maariv

US President Donald Trump signed a document with Egypt's, Qatar's, and Turkey's leaders welcoming the agreements on Gaza during a peace summit in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh on Monday, with 31 countries and organizations present.

Trump, who arrived at the summit directly after leaving Israel, said that "everyone will want to join the Abraham Accords now."

Attendees were received on

a red carpet as Trump stood on stage in front of a banner reading: "Peace 2025."

The American president stated that the document was "very comprehensive," outlining the rules and regulations for the Gaza Strip's future.

Further, Trump said that in order to reconstruct Gaza, Hamas would need to be demilitarized.

He also thanked Arab and Islamic nations for their role in achieving the breakthrough that led to the end of the war and the release of the living hostages from Gaza.

"We seek tolerance, respect, and equal opportunity for every person, ensuring the

‘The hostages are back! It feels so good to say it’

Trump charms before appreciative Knesset

• By KESHET NEEV
and JAMES GENN

US President Donald Trump underscored America's bond with Israel and reflected on the work he had done with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu throughout the two-year war, which came to a close after Israel and Hamas accepted the hostage-ceasefire deal he brokered, in an address at the Knesset's plenum on Monday.

Trump was met with gratitude from Netanyahu, trumpet fanfare, and repeated standing ovations by ministers and the plenum audience in attendance throughout his speech.

The president landed in



US PRESIDENT Donald Trump gives an address to the Knesset on Monday. (Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

Israel as the first round of hostage releases by the terrorist organization was underway. He had arrived for a day visit to make the speech. Trump

is the fourth US president to ever speak before the plenum. "The hostages are back! It

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A day of sealing, a day of return

COMMENT

• By HERB KEINON

Rare are the days when history and holiness meet, when the Jewish calendar's rhythms and the country's pulse seem to beat as one. Monday was one of those days.

Monday was Hoshana Raba, the final day of Sukkot. It is a day of sealing – the moment Jewish tradition teaches that the verdict of the High Holy Days is set. And it is also, remarkably, a day of return: 20 hostages came home after two years of captivity and hell in Gaza.

On that morning, as congregations across Israel encircled the *bimah* (podium), clutching willows and reciting *hoshanot* (prayers), the words "*Hoshia et amecha u'va-*

rech et nachalatecha" – "Save your people and bless your inheritance" – carried a contemporary power they have rarely held.

Prayer was not ancient liturgy on that day, but a reflection of lived reality. On that day, the cry for salvation and the hope of blessing converged. On that day of sealing, the lives of the hostages and their families were being unsealed from darkness.

The symbolism could not have been sharper. Hoshana Raba closes the arc that began on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – a journey from judgment to mercy. It is the last chance, tradition says, to plead before the gates of heaven close. The hostages'

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