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‘In the morning there is joyful singing’



Released hostage Evyatar David reacts upon arriving at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, Israel, on Oct. 13. STOYAN NENOV/REUTERS

Families, residents cheer as hostages released

Kathryn Palmer, Zac Anderson, Michael Collins and Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

Israel celebrated the release of the remaining hostages taken by Hamas militants in the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks as the first phase in the U.S.-brokered ceasefire plan was met with joy around the world on Oct. 13.

Twenty Israeli hostages in Gaza were transferred to the International Committee of the Red Cross and returned home, according to the Israeli military. Almost 2,000 Palestinian prisoners were released by Israel as part of the ceasefire deal.

Cheers, cries and Hebrew songs rang out in Tel Aviv’s Hostage Square, where

thousands of Israelis had gathered to celebrate the homecoming.

President Donald Trump traveled to the Middle East to greet the hostages as part of a whirlwind visit to Israel and Egypt while back home the U.S. government entered its 13th day in a shutdown.

“This is the historic dawn of a new Middle East,” Trump said in his remarks to the Knesset, Israel’s legislature, declaring it at the start of a 65-minute speech a “day of profound joy.”

The release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza began at 1 a.m. ET on Oct. 13 from the Netzarim corridor and continued in Gaza’s Khan Younis. Hamas also announced that on Oct. 13, it would release the bodies of four of the 28 dead Israeli hostages held in Gaza. No other details

were immediately available.

Some of the deceased hostages were killed on Oct. 7, 2023, attack; others are believed to have died while in captivity.

Following Hamas’ release of all 20 living Israeli hostages, Israel released 250 Palestinian prisoners and more than 1,700 detainees. Images and broadcast feeds showed Palestinian prisoners on buses exiting a prison in southern Israel and families reuniting in Ramallah in the West Bank.

Most were detainees taken by Israeli forces, and the group of 250 prisoners were convicted of involvement in deadly attacks or were held under

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Tempers flaring in DC as shutdown persists

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Two weeks into a government shutdown with no end in sight, tensions are high and getting higher among the people with the power to end it.

At the U.S. Capitol last week, two Democratic senators confronted the Republican speaker of the House outside his office, accusing him of “covering up for pedophiles” by avoiding a vote to release more information on the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

On the same day, the Democratic House minority leader separately yelled

at a Republican congressman to “keep your mouth shut.”

The testy scenes underscore an increasingly bitter relationship between America’s two major political parties as the government shutdown approaches a third week. The House of Representatives has not taken a vote in more than three weeks and the Senate has yet to work through a weekend since funding lapsed on Sept. 30.

Members of Congress say they are starting to feel the pressure, and it’s showing in their interactions with each other. “I’m trying to muster every ounce

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Arizona Democratic Sens. Ruben Gallego and Mark Kelly criticized House Speaker Mike Johnson over refusing to swear in a new Democratic congresswoman from their state during the shutdown. MICHAEL CHOW/ARIZONA REPUBLIC FILE

ANALYSIS

Trump basks in praise

‘Peace president’ receives warm reception in Israel

Susan Page
USA TODAY

The path to a durable peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians that President Donald Trump is pursuing will surely face hurdles and setbacks ahead, and success in that long struggle is hardly guaranteed.

But on Oct. 13, there was joy in the morning.

“After so many years of unceasing war and endless danger, today, the skies are calm, the guns are silent, the sirens are still, and the sun rises on a Holy Land that is finally at peace,” Trump told the Knesset, Israel’s legislature, in a triumphant 65-minute address marked by asides and interrupted by applause. “Generations from now, this will be remembered as the moment that everything began to change.”

There was jubilation on the streets of Tel Aviv and Gaza, and Trump, who is both praised and derided in his homeland, was greeted almost everywhere as a hero.

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Local man indicted for fentanyl death

Father charged with manslaughter of daughter

Nickie Hayes
Poughkeepsie Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A father has been charged in the April 2021 death of his 16-month-old daughter.

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi announced Haitham Dasan, 49, has been charged with second-degree manslaughter in Dutchess County Court.

Dasan is accused of having recklessly caused the death of his daughter Soraiya.

“When my administration began reviewing this case, we made a promise — that no victim would be forgotten and no case left unexamined,” Parisi said in a statement. “This indictment reflects that commitment.”

In the early afternoon of April 12, 2021, at 75 Oakdale Ave., Dasan allegedly had a hypodermic needle containing both fentanyl and xylazine in

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