

Hamas awaits release of 90 Palestinian prisoners as it hands over 3 Israeli captives



Hamas forces hand over Israeli captives to members of the International Committee of the Red

Cross (ICRC) as part of a ceasefire and prisoner swap deal with the Israel I regime, in Gaza City, January 19, 2025. (Via Reuters)

Gaza City, January 19 (RHC)-- Hamas has released the list of the 90 Palestinian prisoners who are set to be released by the Israeli regime in exchange for three female captives, as part of the first phase of a long-awaited ceasefire agreement between the two sides.

The group said in a statement that the ages of the prisoners “range from 15 to 68, with the dates of their imprisonment ranging from two months ago to five years ago.”

Twenty-one men and 69 women will be released, including 22 aged 18 or younger. All of them are prisoners who were abducted from the occupied West Bank and al-Quds, Hamas said. Among them is 61-year-old Palestinian politician Khalida Jarrar— a leading member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Jarrar, who was abducted by Israeli forces in January 2024, has been held in solitary confinement for months, Hamas said.

Zeina Barbar, 18, is also among the prisoners returning home today. She was abducted by Israeli forces from the occupied Old City of al-Quds, in July 2024.

And Wilaa Tanaja, who was abducted from the West Bank city of Nablus, is also going to be released today. Tanaja was once released as part of a prisoner exchange in November 2023 but was abducted again.

Israel had said earlier that 737 Palestinian prisoners would be freed during the first 42-day phase of the ceasefire.

In the meantime, Hamas confirmed the transfer of three Israeli captives to representatives from the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC).

"The Red Cross has communicated that the three Israeli hostages were transferred to them and are on their way toward IDF and ISA forces in the Gaza Strip," Israel's military said in a statement, using acronyms for Israel's military and the Israeli Security Agency respectively.

The three captives— Romi Gonen, Emily Damari and Doron Steinbrecher —were the first of 33 that the resistance group is expected to free during the first phase of the ceasefire deal.

Under the agreement, Hamas will release four captives on Day 7 of the ceasefire and the remaining 26 will be released over the next five weeks.

Foreign captives, including Americans, are also expected to be released in addition to the 33 Israeli captives, CNN reported, citing sources familiar with the matter.

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