

**STRIKING BAATIL**

"In reality, We (Allah) strike baatil (falsehood) with the Haq. It then smashes out the brains of baatil. And, lo, it (baatil) suddenly disappears."  
(Qur'aan)

**Al-Haq**

17 Rajab 1446 – 17 January 2025

**THE BAND OF HAQ**

"There will ever remain a band from my Ummah fighting on the Haq until the Day of Qiyaamah. Those who oppose them and those who do not aid them, will not be able to harm them."  
(Hadith)

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**PALESTINE****A FAKE, DUBIOUS, TREACHEROUS  
'CEASEFIRE'****What do we know about the Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal in Gaza?**

*Gaza ceasefire agreed, including a prisoner exchange and aid surge, after more than 460 days of conflict.*

By [Al Jazeera Staff](#)

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Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas have agreed to a ceasefire deal with Israel, Qatar and the United States have said, after more than 460 days of a war that has devastated Gaza.

Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani said on Wednesday that the ceasefire deal would come into effect on Sunday, but added that work on implementation steps with Israel and Hamas was continuing. Israel says that some final details remain, and an Israeli government vote is expected on Thursday.

Israel has killed [more than 46,000 Palestinians](#) since its war on the enclave began in October 2023.

The deal includes a temporary ceasefire that will, for now, bring to an end the destruction visited upon Gaza, as well as the release of captives held in Gaza and many of the prisoners held by Israel. The deal will also, finally, allow displaced Palestinians to return to their homes – though after Israel's deliberate destruction campaign, many homes no longer remain.

***The first phase***

The initial phase will last six weeks, and will involve a limited prisoner exchange, the partial withdrawal of Israeli troops in Gaza and a surge of aid into the enclave.

**Advertisement**

Thirty-three Israeli captives, including women, children and civilians over the age of 50 – taken during the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023 – will be released. In exchange, Israel will release a larger number of Palestinian prisoners during this phase, including prisoners serving life sentences. Among the Palestinians being released are around 1000 who were detained after October 7.

In tandem with the exchange of captives, Israel will withdraw its forces from Gaza's population centres to areas no more than 700 metres inside Gaza's border with Israel.

However, that may exclude the Netzarim Corridor, the militarised belt bisecting the Strip and controlling movement along it – the withdrawal from Netzarim is expected instead to take place in stages.

Israel will allow civilians to return to their homes in the enclave's besieged north, where aid agencies warn [famine may have taken hold](#), and allow a surge of aid into the enclave – up to 600 trucks per day.



Israel will also allow wounded Palestinians to leave the Gaza Strip for treatment, and open the Rafah crossing with Egypt seven days after the start of the implementation of the first phase. Israeli forces will reduce their presence in the Philadelphi Corridor, the border area between Egypt and Gaza, and then withdraw completely no later than the 50th day after the deal comes into effect.

***What happens after the first phase?***

Details of the second and third phases, though understood to be agreed to in principle, are to be negotiated during the first phase. US President Joe Biden has said that the ceasefire will continue even if the negotiations on the second and third phases go beyond the initial six weeks of the first phase.

Critically, Israel has insisted that no written guarantees be given to rule out a resumption of its attacks once the first phase is complete and its civilian captives returned.

However, according to an Egyptian source cited by the Associated Press news agency, the three mediators involved in the talks – Egypt, Qatar and the United States – have given Hamas verbal guarantees that negotiations will continue and that all three would press for a deal that would see the second and third stages implemented before an initial six-week window has elapsed.

***What is planned for the second phase?***

If it is determined that the conditions have been met for a second phase, Hamas will release all the remaining living captives, mostly male soldiers, in return for the freeing of more Palestinians held in the Israeli prison system. In addition, according to the current document, Israel would initiate its “complete withdrawal” from Gaza.

However, these conditions, which have yet to be voted upon by the Israeli cabinet, are at odds with the stated positions of many of the far-right wing members of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s cabinet, which he relies upon for support, as well as Netanyahu’s own past positions, in which he has repeatedly used the presence of Hamas in Gaza to prolong the conflict.

***The third phase***

The details of a third phase remain unclear.

Should the conditions of the second stage be met, the third phase will see the bodies of the remaining captives handed over in return for a three- to five-year reconstruction plan to be conducted under international supervision.

There is currently no agreement over who will administer Gaza beyond the ceasefire. The United States has pressed for a reformed version of the Palestinian Authority to do so.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday said the post-war reconstruction and governance envisions the Palestinian Authority inviting “international partners” to stand up an interim governing authority to run critical services and oversee the territory.

Other partners, notably Arab states, would provide forces to ensure security in the short term, he said in a speech at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank.

For such a plan to work, it would need the support of Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, which have said they would only support the scheme if there is a pathway to Palestinian statehood. This provides another point of contention for Israeli lawmakers, despite Israel having agreed to a two-state solution in the Oslo Accords of the 1990s.

Israel has yet to suggest an alternative form of governance in Gaza.  
Source: Al Jazeera

