The 2023 Truce Exchange: 240 Palestinian Prisoners in Seven Days

Between 24 November and 1 December 2023 the first exchange since “Wafa al-Ahrar” took place, within a truce mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States, in which 240 Palestinian prisoners, among them women and children, were freed in return for Israeli and foreign captives held in Gaza. [1][2]

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The deal at a glance

Item	Details
Length of the truce	24 November – 1 December 2023, four days and then extensions
Announced agreement	50 captives in return for 150 Palestinian women and minors
Mediators	Qatar, Egypt and the United States
Actually freed	240 Palestinian prisoners
In return	About 80 Israelis and 30 foreigners according to Al Jazeera English
Handover	Through the Red Cross and the Rafah crossing

[1][2][3]

The agreement

Qatar announced the agreement on Wednesday 22 November 2023. According to Emarat Al Youm Hamas would free 50 captives in return for 150 Palestinian women and minors, and a four-day humanitarian truce, extendable, began at seven on the morning of Friday 24 November. [1][4]

The agreement provided for a halt to military operations, a six-hour daily suspension of Israeli flights over parts of Gaza, and more aid convoys and fuel. Israel published a list of about 300 prisoners who might be released. [1]

The batches

Day	Freed from Gaza	Freed from the prisons
24 November	24: 13 Israelis, 10 Thais and a Filipino	39: 24 women and 15 minors
25 November	13 Israelis (and 4 Thais outside the agreement)	39: 6 of the longest-held women and 33 children
26 November	17: 13 Israelis, 3 Thais and a Russian	39 according to a list reported by Al Jazeera Net
28 November	12: 10 Israelis and 2 Thais	30: 15 children and 15 women

[4][5][6][3][7]

The extension and the end of the truce

On the evening of Monday 27 November Qatar announced a two-day extension of the truce, followed by one more day. By 28 November, the fifth day, Hamas had freed 86 captives and 180 prisoners had been freed. The truce ended at seven on the morning of Friday 1 December 2023, and the Israeli army announced the resumption of fighting minutes later. [3][2]

In total 240 Palestinian prisoners were freed during the truce, in return for 80

Israelis and 30 foreigners according to Al Jazeera English. [2]

The women and men freed

In the first two days Israel freed 30 women prisoners, leaving 32 women in custody according to Al Jazeera Net. Prominent names include Maysoun Musa al-Jabali, the longest-held woman prisoner, arrested on 29 June 2015 and sentenced to 15 years. Others freed include Israa Jaabis, Shorouq Dwayat and Marah Bakir. In the batch of 28 November the children included 12 from Jerusalem and 3 from the West Bank, and the women 5 from Jerusalem and 10 from the West Bank. [7][3]

Timeline

Date	Event
22 November 2023	Qatar announces the truce and exchange agreement [1]
24 November 2023	The truce begins; first batch: 24 captives and 39 prisoners [4]
25 November 2023	Second batch: 39 prisoners, 33 of them children [5]
26 November 2023	Third batch: 17 captives and prisoners [6]
27 November 2023	Qatar announces a two-day extension [3]
28 November 2023	A batch of 30 prisoners for 12 captives [3]
1 December 2023	The truce ends and fighting resumes [2]

Frequently asked questions about the November 2023 truce exchange

How many prisoners were freed in the 2023 truce?

240 Palestinian prisoners over seven days. [2]

What was the original agreement?

50 captives in return for 150 Palestinian women and minors during a four-day truce. [1]

Who mediated?

Qatar, Egypt and the United States, with the Red Cross handling the handover of captives. [1][4]

When did the truce end?

At seven on the morning of 1 December 2023, and the Israeli army announced the resumption of fighting afterwards. [2]

Sources and references

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4. Al Jazeera English, “Hamas releases 24 captives amid Israel truce: here’s what to know”, 24 November 2023.
5. Al Jazeera Net, “Israel receives a list of 39 Palestinian prisoners to be freed today”, 26 November 2023 (in Arabic).
6. Asharq News, “Completion of the exchange of the third batch”, 26 November 2023 (in Arabic).
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