1979 Prisoner Exchange: 76 Palestinian Detainees Freed After the Litani Operation

On 14 March 1979 Israel freed 76 Palestinian detainees, among them 12 girls, in return for the reserve soldier Abraham Amram, captured by the Popular Front – General Command in the Litani operation on 5 April 1978. The exchange took place in Cyprus through the Red Cross. [1][2]

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The deal at a glance

Item	Details
Date of the deal	14 March 1979
Captor	The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command
Operation	The Litani operation, 5 April 1978
Freed	76 detainees from various factions, among them 12 girls
In return	The reserve soldier Abraham Amram
Place of exchange	Cyprus, through the Red Cross

[1][2]

The Litani operation and the deal

The Popular Front – General Command captured Amram in the Litani operation on 5 April 1978, which Al Jazeera Net describes as an ambush of an Israeli truck near Tyre. [1][2]

About eleven months later, on 14 March 1979, Israel freed 76 detainees from all the factions of the Palestinian revolution, 12 of them girls. Among the women freed was Afifa Hanna Banoura from Beit Sahour. The exchange took place in Cyprus through the Red Cross. [2][1]

Timeline

Date	Event
5 April 1978	The Litani operation and the capture of Abraham Amram [2]
14 March 1979	76 detainees freed in return for Amram, in Cyprus [1]

Frequently asked questions about the 1979 exchange

How many prisoners were freed in the 1979 deal?

76 Palestinian detainees from various factions, among them 12 girls. [1][2]

Who captured the soldier?

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command in the Litani operation. [2]

Where did the exchange take place?

In Cyprus through the Red Cross according to Al Jazeera Net. [1]

Sources and references

1. Al Jazeera Net (Encyclopedia), “The most prominent prisoner exchanges with Israel”, 9 November 2023 (in Arabic).
2. WAFA (Palestinian National Information Center), “Prisoner exchange operations” (in Arabic).