



Hamas returns body in bid to keep deal alive

Report: Hamas told mediators it has begun recovering 7 to 9 hostage bodies

Rawan Suleiman and Bar Peleg

The Prime Minister's Office said Monday evening that the coffin of a slain hostage was in IDF hands. The body was received from the Red Cross, but had not reached Israel before press time.

Hamas had informed the mediating countries that it began recovering between seven and nine bodies of deceased Israeli hostages held in the Gaza Strip, the Saudi Aaharq TV channel reported earlier Monday. According to the report, Israel provided the group with the whereabouts of the bodies. Hamas has reportedly requested through the mediators that the IDF withdraw from certain areas on the Israeli-controlled side of the Yellow Line to complete the searches.

A Hamas source told Haaretz that the organization is searching for the bodies in good faith, as it sees this as a test of its seriousness and ability to meet the next stage of the cease-fire agreement. According to the source, the searches over the past 24 hours have focused on a neighborhood in Khan Yunis that was almost completely destroyed, requiring the use of heavy

equipment operated by the Egyptians. He added that it is unclear how much Hamas members really know about the location of the bodies, or whether they are conducting random searches. Sources told the Qatari Al Araby channel that Israel has refused to allow engineering vehicles to assist in the search for the body of one of the deceased hostages in the Rafah area, hampering the searches.

Time to re-learn compassion
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On Sunday, Israel let Hamas operatives accompany Red Cross teams in searches for hostage bodies in Rafah, which lies on the Israeli-controlled side of the Yellow Line. Earlier on Sunday, an Israeli government spokesperson said the Red Cross and Egyptian teams had been allowed on the Israeli-controlled side of the yellow line, expanding humanitarian access in the area.

According to the Qatari Al Araby channel, Hamas and Red Cross teams met at a field hospital and then

traveled together to locate bodies based on information held by Hamas.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum issued a statement calling on the Israeli government and the Gaza cease-fire mediators to pressure Hamas into sending back the hostages' remains, as "Hamas knows exactly where every one of the deceased hostages is held."

The Forum demanded negotiations on the second stage of the deal pause. "Two weeks have passed since the deadline set in the agreement for the return of all 48 hostages, yet 13 remain in Hamas captivity," the statement read.

Gaza's Civil Defense reported that the IDF struck a group of Palestinian civilians who had returned to their homes near Khan Yunis in Gaza, killing two Palestinians and wounding three. The Hamas-run Health Ministry said that eight Palestinians were pronounced dead and 13 were hospitalized over the past 48 hours across the Gaza Strip. The ministry does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

Fifty bodies of Palestinians were brought into Gaza from Israel and 41 unidentified bodies were buried, the statement read.



The family of Yossi Sharabi looking at his coffin during his funeral ceremony on Monday.

Moti Milrod

Yossi Sharabi, killed in Gaza after being taken hostage on Oct. 7, laid to rest in Kibbutz Be'eri

Haaretz

Slain hostage Yossi Sharabi, whose remains were returned to Israel earlier this month as part of a Gaza cease-fire and hostage deal, was laid to rest in Rishon Letzion on Monday.

Sharabi, 53, a Tel Aviv native who moved to Kibbutz Be'eri, was the father of three daughters. He met his wife, Nira, a nurse, at Be'eri,

where he worked first as a machine operator at Be'eri Printers and later as head of security.

He had a master's degree in finance, volunteered with the local youth, loved to surf and was active in his synagogue.

His widow, Nira, spoke at the funeral. "You were our human shield," she said, referring to the events of October 7. "For two years

I haven't breathed, shouting silently inside, asking, 'Why?' I waited my whole life for you, and when you came I knew, it was you. You were pure goodness. We were meant for each other."

"Every song reminds me of you. I breathe you in from the moment I open my eyes, and all night long. ... I know that if you were here, you would tell me that we need to move forward, that it's im-

portant to show our daughters the right path and to always be there for them."

Sharabi was kidnapped alive alongside his brother, Eli Sharabi, on October 7, 2023. Though their family home was destroyed, his wife Nira managed to hide their daughters during the massacres.

Eli was released after 491 days in captivity in February. In January 2024, it

was announced that Yossi Sharabi had been killed in Gaza. A month later, an IDF investigation concluded that he was likely killed in an Israeli Air Force strike targeting a building near where he was being held.

Since October 7, the Sharabi family has been outspoken in calling for the return of the hostages.

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Jewish terror surges, but police investigations drop

Josh Breiner

The number of police investigations into Jewish nationalist and terrorist incidents in the West Bank is falling, as the number of complaints filed by Palestinians since the beginning of the year has been rising, according to police data obtained by Haaretz under a freedom of information request.

The data also states that 427 complaints about nationalist crime against Palestinians in the West Bank were filed in the first half of 2025, compared with 680 complaints filed in all of 2024.

Figures sent to The Movement for Freedom of Information show that the police's West Bank district command opened 144 criminal investigations in January-

June 2025, just a third of the complaints filed by Palestinians about Jewish nationalist crime, compared with 308 investigations opened in 2024, which made for 45 percent of the complaints filed by Palestinians.

The figures also indicate that most of the cases investigated property damage offenses, arson with nationalist motives and stone-

throwing incidents.

There was also a small increase in the number of Jews arrested on suspicion of nationalist offenses in 2025: 44 arrests in the first half of the year compared with 71 arrests in all of 2024.

The Police's Judea and Samaria Central Unit, which is responsible for investigating Jewish terrorism and nationalist crime in the West Bank,

has been operating without a permanent commander for almost a year.

The previous commander, Commander Avishai Mualem, was transferred from his post after an investigation was opened against him for deliberately ignoring intelligence about Jewish terrorism events and far-right activists and avoided arresting them. He is sus-

pected of trying to please National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir to obtain a promotion.

Mualem is suspected of bribery, fraud, breach of trust and abuse of police power. When serving in his position as commander, he insisted that the number of Jewish terrorism events had



A car torched by settlers, in Beita this month. Jaafar Ashtiyeh/AFP

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‘Fighting a criminal presidency’:

Mamdani’s final N.Y. rally was about America, not Israel-Gaza



Mamdani, flanked by Sen. Sanders and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, at the rally, Sunday. Shira Schechter

Etan Nechin

NEW YORK – Mayoral Democratic candidate front-runner Zohran Mamdani made his final pitch to voters before the November 4 election at a rally on Sunday with Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and New York

Governor Kathy Hochul.

Addressing nearly 13,000 supporters at Queens' Forest Hills Stadium, he invoked Franklin D. Roosevelt – the former U.S. president whose reforms brought economic relief to Americans in the 1930s and 1940s – as he called for an end to “the era of government that deems an issue

too small or a crisis too big.”

“Because we need a government that is every bit as ambitious as our adversaries,” Mamdani said. “A government strong enough to refuse the realities we will not accept and forge the future.”

Flanked by Sanders and AOC, Mamdani positioned himself as their natural heir. The atmosphere at Forest

Hills Stadium felt less like a standard campaign stop and more like a movement convinced it was on the verge of victory. For more than a month, Mamdani has maintained a double-digit lead over his competitors, Republican nominee Curtis Liwa and former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, who is running as an independent after losing the Democratic primary to Mamdani in June.

“The billionaires got scared, or, as the New York Times would describe it, the Hamptons were basically in group therapy about the mayoral race,” Mamdani said.

Cheers filled the stadium each time a speaker evoked the rally's uniting title: “New York is not for sale.” The chants carried through the open air, mixing with the rumble of planes overhead from nearby LaGuardia airport. There was an energy of anticipation, but also achievement – a sense that this crowd wasn't just showing up to witness a campaign, but to prove it had already changed something.

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Shas source: We will support bill splitting attorney general’s job

Noa Shpigel

Sources in the Shas and Degel Hatorah parties said on Monday they would support a bill splitting the job of attorney general into three, which the coalition seeks to pass in a preliminary reading in the Knesset.

The coalition will need the two Haredi parties' support to ensure a Knesset majority when the bill comes up for a vote on Wednesday. In exchange, the coalition will reportedly enable a bill – that would expand the power of the rabbinical courts – to

move forward.

Shas' signal of support comes less than a week after the party's lawmakers resigned from their coalition posts to protest the delays by the government in winning passage of a law exempting Haredim from military draft.

The party said that at the behest of its Council of Torah Sages, its MKs were stepping down as chairmen of the Knesset committees on education, health and the reduction of social gaps in the periphery. However, Shas left open the possibil-

ity of continuing to vote with the coalition and announced that it “will act in complete coordination with the Haredi factions and will continuously consult with the Council of Torah Sages in regard to its stance on votes in the Knesset.”

Last May, the Haredi parties began boycotting coalition legislation to protest the delay in passing a draft exemption law. As a result, the coalition has repeatedly been forced to pull bills, effectively paralyzing

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High school student arrested in killing of classmate in Kafr Qara

Deiaa Haj Yahia

A 17-year-old boy was stabbed to death in the northern town of Kafr Qara on Monday, during a brawl between two groups of students outside a school. A student at the same school as the victim, also 17, was arrested as a suspect.

The victim was named as Mohammed Hussein Marazka. Another teenager suffered minor stab wounds during the fight.

In a separate incident on Monday morning in Arabeh, also in northern Israel, an 18-year-old male was shot to death while riding to work with his father in their car. The incident is under investigation as a homicide. The police said the victim, Qasm A'saleh, does not have a criminal record.

On Friday Muhammad Hijazi, 50, was killed, and his wife suffered moderate wounds, after one or more persons fired into their

home in Tamra, also in northern Israel.

Last week Mohammed al-Faar, 28, a Palestinian who had entered Israel illegally, was shot dead in Umm al-Fahm. The Magen David Adom rescue service said the shooting was at a bakery in the city and that the victim was declared dead at the scene.

The police said the incident is under investigation and suspect links to organized crime.