

LIVE BLOG: Netanyahu Vows to Enact Trump's Gaza Plan; Israel Kills Hamas Official – Day 500

February 17, 2025 Blog, News, Slider



The 15th group of wounded and sick leave Gaza from the Rafah crossing. (Photo: via QNN)

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By Palestine Chronicle



Staff

Illegal Jewish settlers attacked Palestinians and their property in the villages of Duma, Jurish, and Lifjim, south of Nablus.

Resigned Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir criticized Netanyahu's government, saying it opted for "surrender instead of decisive victory."

Click here for the previous blogs.

Tue, Feb 18, 7:05 AM (Palestine Time)

UNRWA: Agency May Collapse Due to Israeli Knesset Legislation

AL-JAZEERA: The UNRWA Commissioner-General warned:

The agency may collapse due to Israeli Knesset legislation targeting its operations and funding.

The collapse of UNRWA would create a dangerous vacuum in service delivery and threaten regional stability.

Tue, Feb 18, 7:05 AM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Media: Delegation Heads to Cairo with Partial Mandate

ISRAELI MEDIA: Israel's Channel 13 reported:

The negotiation delegation, headed by the Coordinator for Prisoner and Missing Persons Affairs, departed for Cairo with a partial mandate.

The Israeli delegation will only discuss the continuation of the first phase of the deal, without addressing the second phase.

Tue, Feb 18, 7:05 AM (Palestine Time)

Egyptian-UN Talks on Arrangements for Gaza Reconstruction Conference

EGYPTIAN MEDIA: Cairo hosted Egyptian-UN discussions on Monday regarding preparations for the international conference on the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. Egypt plans to organize the conference in collaboration with the United Nations, the international community, and international financial institutions.

Tue, Feb 18, 7:05 AM (Palestine Time)

Saudi Crown Prince and Rubio Discuss Situation in Gaza

SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized that any arrangements in the Gaza Strip must “contribute to regional security” during his meeting in Riyadh with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, according to the U.S. State Department.

Tue, Feb 18, 3:19 AM (Palestine Time)

' Hamas Possesses Thousands of Fighters and a Tunnel Network'

ISRAELI MEDIA: The Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported that Hamas still possesses thousands of armed fighters and hundreds of commanders, along with a tunnel network that has yet to be fully uncovered. The report highlights the ongoing challenges faced by Israeli forces in dismantling Hamas’s infrastructure and military presence in the region.

Tue, Feb 18, 3:16 AM (Palestine Time)

Former Senior Officers Attack Netanyahu’s Government and Its Gaza Policy

ISRAELI MEDIA: The Israeli newspaper Maariv published a letter written by retired Major General Matan Vilnai, former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Israeli Occupation Army, addressed to the government and the Israeli public on behalf of over 550 former senior military officers.

The letter rejects the resumption of war in the Gaza Strip and includes the following key points:

The government must avoid endangering soldiers and prisoners with empty slogans.

The current policy is leading to a bloody occupation of the Gaza Strip and exacerbating the security nightmare in the West Bank.

The most dangerous front Israel faces is the internal front, due to national division and attacks on the security establishment.

The government must prioritize the release of prisoners as a precondition for any future action.

The Netanyahu government’s support for the idea of displacement jeopardizes peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan, as well as the Abraham Accords.

The letter reflects growing discontent among former military leaders with the government’s approach to Gaza and its broader security and political implications.

Tue, Feb 18, 3:12 AM (Palestine Time)

Occupation Forces Storm West Bank Villages and Towns

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: Israeli occupation forces stormed villages and towns in the West Bank:

Tel village, southwest of Nablus.

Asira al-Qibliya village, south of Nablus.

Tulkarm city, where Israeli occupation forces detained young men and abused them in the city.

Rammun town, east of Ramallah.

Tue, Feb 18, 12:17 AM (Palestine Time)

Clashes Between Palestinians and Israeli Forces in Northern West Bank

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: Clashes broke out between Palestinian youths and Israeli occupation forces during a raid on the town of Urif, south of Nablus in the northern West Bank.

Tue, Feb 18, 12:17 AM (Palestine Time)

Palestinian Boy Killed in the West Bank

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: A Palestinian boy, Diaa Ahmad Sabaaneh, succumbed to injuries sustained two weeks ago in an Israeli airstrike on the town of Qabatiya in the northern West Bank.

Mon, Feb 17, 11:31 PM (Palestine Time)

Rubio Discusses Gaza Situation with Saudi Crown Prince

US STATE DEPARTMENT: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman the importance of preparing arrangements for Gaza that contribute to regional security. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the Gaza ceasefire and releasing all Israeli captives.

Mon, Feb 17, 11:31 PM (Palestine Time)

Israel Announces Formation of Body to Assist Gaza Residents in 'Migration'

ISRAELI MEDIA: Israeli Defense Minister Yisrael Katz announced the formation of a special Israeli body to assist Gaza residents in “voluntary migration”.

Mon, Feb 17, 10:08 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Forces Assault Medical Team in Jenin Camp

PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT: The Palestinian Red Crescent reported that Israeli occupation forces assaulted a medical team in the Jenin refugee camp after coordinating with the Red Cross to reach a medical case.

Mon, Feb 17, 10:08 PM (Palestine Time)

68% of Israelis Prefer Recovering Captives

ISRAELI CHANNEL 12 POLL: 68% of Israelis prefer recovering captives even if it means Hamas remains in power in Gaza. Additionally, 68% of Israelis support US President Donald Trump's plan to displace Palestinians.

Mon, Feb 17, 10:08 PM (Palestine Time)

Netanyahu Orders Immediate Implementation of UNRWA Ban Law

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICE: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the immediate implementation of the law banning the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). On October 28, 2024, the Knesset approved laws prohibiting UNRWA from operating in Israel and revoking its privileges.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:01 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Negotiation Delegation to Head to Egypt Tomorrow

WALLA: An Israeli official stated that the Israeli negotiation delegation will head to Egypt tomorrow, Tuesday, to discuss the entry of mobile homes into the Gaza Strip.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:01 PM (Palestine Time)

Shin Bet Chief Ronen Bar No Longer Part of Negotiation Team

ISRAELI RADIO: Shin Bet Chief Ronen Bar stated in recent days that he is no longer part of the negotiation team for the prisoner exchange deal. The former deputy head of Shin Bet is currently leading the negotiations. Bar may join the delegation of senior officials if progress is made in the second phase.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:01 PM (Palestine Time)

Resistance Fighters Target Israeli Forces with Explosives West of Jenin

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: Resistance fighters targeted Israeli occupation forces with explosive devices during their raid on the town of Yabad, southwest of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:01 PM (Palestine Time)

Hamas: Occupation's Practices in Prisons Have Crossed All Red Lines

HAMAS PRISONERS' MEDIA OFFICE: Hamas expressed deep concern over the brutal crimes committed by the Zionist occupation against Palestinian prisoners, as evidenced by the dire condition of those released

Mon, Feb 17, 9:01 PM (Palestine Time)

Explosion Heard in Tulkarm, Northern West Bank

AL-JAZEERA (citing Palestinian sources): An explosion was heard in the city of Tulkarm in the northern occupied West Bank. Al-Aqsa TV reported that the Israeli army is demolishing several homes in the Tulkarm refugee camp.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:01 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Police Set Up Checkpoints Around Netanyahu's Residence

ISRAELI CHANNEL 12: Israeli police set up checkpoints around Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence as protesters advanced, demanding the completion of a prisoner exchange deal.

Mon, Feb 17, 6:50 PM (Palestine Time)

IRGC: "True Promise 3" Will Be Executed at the Right Time

TASNIM NEWS AGENCY: The Deputy Commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard stated that "Operation True Promise 3 against Israel will be executed at the appropriate time."

Mon, Feb 17, 6:50 PM (Palestine Time)

Israel: Mobile Homes in Exchange for Releasing 6 Live Captives

YEDIOTH AHRONOTH: Israel is demanding the release of 6 live captives instead of 3 this Saturday in exchange for allowing hundreds of mobile homes into Gaza.

Mon, Feb 17, 6:50 PM (Palestine Time)

Israel Prepares to Receive Bodies of 5 Captives

KAN: Israel is preparing to receive the bodies of 5 captives this Thursday with the intervention of mediators. The Gaza Division has been instructed to prepare for the possible receipt of several captives' bodies. Hamas will provide a list of captives who died in captivity on Thursday morning. Families will be notified after the bodies are identified. A prisoner exchange is expected on Saturday, involving the release of 3 live Israeli captives.

Mon, Feb 17, 6:50 PM (Palestine Time)

Gaza Electricity Company Calls for International Support

GAZA ELECTRICITY COMPANY: The Gaza Electricity Company emphasized the urgent need for maintenance supplies to restore power to vital facilities in the Strip. They called on the international community to intervene and provide immediate support for the electricity sector to aid relief efforts.

Mon, Feb 17, 6:50 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Forces Raid Town in Jerusalem

AL-JAZEERA: Israeli occupation forces raided the town of Al-Issawiya in occupied Jerusalem and stormed a house.

Mon, Feb 17, 5:13 PM (Palestine Time)

Netanyahu's Court Session Canceled Tomorrow

ISRAELI ARMY RADIO: Israeli Army Radio reported that Netanyahu's court session tomorrow has been canceled "at his request to monitor political and security developments."

Mon, Feb 17, 5:13 PM (Palestine Time)

Explosion Heard in Northeastern Rafah

AL JAZEERA: An explosion was heard in the northeastern areas of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Mon, Feb 17, 5:13 PM (Palestine Time)

Verbal Clashes in the Knesset

ISRAELI MEDIA: The Israeli Knesset witnessed verbal clashes between members and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich during a session discussing a no-confidence motion against the government. Smotrich stated that Israel must continue fighting in Gaza and will work to bring back all captives.

Mon, Feb 17, 5:13 PM (Palestine Time)

Protesters Near Netanyahu's Office in Jerusalem

CHANNEL 12: Hundreds of protesters gathered near Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office in Jerusalem, demanding the completion of a prisoner exchange deal.

Mon, Feb 17, 5:13 PM (Palestine Time)

Smotrich Signs Decision to Seize Palestinian Tax Funds

ISRAELI ARMY RADIO: Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich signed a decision to seize 320 million shekels from Palestinian tax funds.

Mon, Feb 17, 5:13 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Army: We Will Remain in 5 Points in Lebanon

ISRAELI ARMY: The Israeli army announced its readiness to remain for an extended period in five points in southern Lebanon until Hezbollah activity south of the Litani River ceases. Lebanese civilians will be allowed to return to villages they evacuated, including Kfar Kila, Adaisseh, Houla, and Meiss El Jabal.

Mon, Feb 17, 5:13 PM (Palestine Time)

Smotrich: Israel Has Reached a Crossroads

SMOTRICH: Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich stated that he will propose during the cabinet meeting that Hamas release all captives, or Israel will swiftly occupy, displace, and annex parts of Gaza. He emphasized that Israel has reached a crossroads, where either Hamas surrenders or the state does.

Mon, Feb 17, 5:13 PM (Palestine Time)

Al-Qassam Brigades Mourn Commander Shahin Martyred in Sidon

AL-QASSAM BRIGADES: The Al-Qassam Brigades mourned the martyrdom of their commander, Mohammad Ibrahim Shahin, in a “treacherous Zionist airstrike” on Sidon, Lebanon.

Mon, Feb 17, 3:47 PM (Palestine Time)

Netanyahu Requests Cancellation of Tomorrow’s Court Session

ISRAEL HAYOM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has requested the cancellation of his scheduled court session tomorrow due to political and security developments.

Mon, Feb 17, 3:47 PM (Palestine Time)

Gantz: We Must Be Prepared to Make Painful Concessions

WALLA: Benny Gantz, leader of the National State Camp party and former war cabinet minister, stated that over the past 500 days, Israel has lost the lives of more than 30 captives, and this is the last opportunity to determine the fate of the remaining ones.

Mon, Feb 17, 3:47 PM (Palestine Time)

Ben-Gvir Demands Halt to Gaza Aid in Exchange for Return to Government

ISRAELI CHANNEL 7: Former National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir demanded a halt to aid to Gaza as a condition for his return to the government. He criticized Netanyahu’s security policy during a Knesset meeting, expressing frustration with his approach.

Mon, Feb 17, 3:47 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Forces Assault Boy North of Ramallah

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: A boy was injured after being assaulted by Israeli occupation forces during a raid on his family’s home in the village of Abu Shukheidim, north of Ramallah in the West Bank.

Mon, Feb 17, 3:47 PM (Palestine Time)

Netanyahu: I Am Committed to Trump’s Plan for a Different Gaza

NETANYAHU: Netanyahu reiterated his commitment to President Donald Trump’s plan to create a different Gaza, stating that there will be no Hamas or Palestinian Authority in Gaza after the war.

Mon, Feb 17, 2:20 PM (Palestine Time)

Lebanese Government Discusses UNIFIL Coordination for Implementing Res. 1701

GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON: The Lebanese Prime Minister discussed coordination with UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army for implementing Resolution 1701.

Mon, Feb 17, 2:20 PM (Palestine Time)

Lebanese President: Concern over Incomplete Israeli Withdrawal

PRESIDENCY OF LEBANON: The Lebanese President expressed concerns over the incomplete Israeli withdrawal expected tomorrow, emphasizing the importance of full withdrawal and stating that Hezbollah's weaponry should be addressed in an agreement among Lebanese factions. The Lebanese Army is prepared to deploy in areas from which Israel will pull back.

Mon, Feb 17, 1:02 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Airstrike in Sidon Targeted Hamas Member Mohammad Shahin

LEBANESE SECURITY SOURCE (to Al-Jazeera): A Lebanese security source told Al-Jazeera that the target of the Israeli airstrike in Sidon was Mohammad Shahin, a Hamas operative.

Mon, Feb 17, 1:02 PM (Palestine Time)

DNA Tests Conducted to Confirm Identity of Sidon Airstrike Target

LEBANESE SECURITY SOURCE (to Reuters, Al-Jazeera): the Israeli strike on a vehicle in Sidon targeted a senior Hamas official. Tests are being conducted to verify the identity of the targeted individual.

Mon, Feb 17, 1:02 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Army Radio: Target of Sidon Strike Was a Hamas Official

ISRAELI ARMY RADIO (citing a security source): The Israeli airstrike in Sidon targeted a Hamas official in Lebanon.

KAN: Netanyahu left his court session to approve the assassination operation.

ISRAELI MEDIA: The target was a key figure in Hamas's infrastructure in Lebanon.

Mon, Feb 17, 1:02 PM (Palestine Time)

Hamas Welcomes African Union Summit Statement

HAMAS STATEMENT: Hamas praised the African Union Summit's final statement condemning Israel's war on Gaza. The group called Africa's position a natural extension of its anti-colonial struggle and urged African nations to translate their stance into political and legal action against Israel.

Mon, Feb 17, 1:02 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Drone Targets Vehicle in Sidon

AL-JAZEERA: An Israeli drone strike hit a vehicle in Sidon, southern Lebanon. Israeli Military Radio reported that the strike targeted a high-profile figure.

Mon, Feb 17, 1:02 PM (Palestine Time)

Judge Orders Netanyahu to Sit, Denies Him Right to Speak in Court

YEDIOTH AHRONOTH: During his 10th corruption trial hearing, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was ordered by the judge to sit and was not allowed to speak. The session began with shouting matches, and his defense lawyers protested the lengthy proceedings, arguing that Netanyahu needed shorter sessions due to security concerns amid the ongoing war in Gaza.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:43 AM (Palestine Time)

Netanyahu Arrives at Tel Aviv Courtroom

YEDIOTH AHRONOTH: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived at a Tel Aviv courtroom for the tenth session of his corruption trial.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:43 AM (Palestine Time)

Two Palestinians Succumb to Wounds in Rafah

AL-JAZEERA: Two Palestinians succumbed to wounds sustained two days ago in Israeli airstrikes and gunfire in Rafah and Khan Yunis.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:43 AM (Palestine Time)

Settlers Attack Palestinians South of Nablus

AL-JAZEERA: Israeli settlers attacked Palestinians and their property in the villages of Duma, Jurish, and Lifjim, south of Nablus.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:43 AM (Palestine Time)

Families of Israeli Captives Demand One Deal to Return All

ISRAELI MEDIA: Families of Israeli captives in Gaza held protests in Tel Aviv, demanding a single deal to bring all captives home. They also announced a 500-minute hunger strike as part of their demonstration. Protests also took place in Jerusalem, Rosh HaAyin, and Ofakim.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:43 AM (Palestine Time)

Ben-Gvir: Netanyahu's Government Chose Surrender Over Victory

ISRAELI MEDIA: Resigned Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir criticized Netanyahu's government, saying it opted for "surrender instead of decisive victory."

Mon, Feb 17, 9:43 AM (Palestine Time)

US Pressuring Netanyahu to Negotiate

ISRAELI ARMY RADIO: The US is pressuring Netanyahu to negotiate the second phase of a deal. The Israeli security cabinet is meeting today to discuss Washington's demands for progress.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:43 AM (Palestine Time)

Hunger Strike by Families of Israeli Captives in Gaza

YEDIOTH AHRONOTH; Families of Israeli captives in Gaza launched a 500-minute hunger strike, marking 500 days since the war began. Protests demanding their release were held in Tel Aviv.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:43 AM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Army Killed Three Israelis in Kfar Aza on October 7

YEDIOTH AHRONOTH: Three Israelis from Kfar Aza were mistakenly killed by Israeli forces on October 7, according to an investigation.

Mon, Feb 17, 9:43 AM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Security Cabinet to Discuss Ceasefire Talks in Cairo

ISRAELI MEDIA: Israel's security cabinet is meeting today, and negotiators are heading to