

GNITN Special Edition

Israel At War Day 494

The Final Countdown

Overplayed Their Hand

Something happened on Saturday when Hamas paraded out the three male hostages to great fanfare but their planned event was overshadowed by the condition of the men. Instead of solidifying their view in the international community and even America they actually unified Israelis from all sides and worse for them, started the clock on their own demise. We read more on this from and [article](#) from CBN.com:

President Donald Trump set a deadline for the release of all the Hamas-held hostages in Gaza – Saturday at noon – warning that if they are not freed, "All bets are off."

Trump's ultimatum followed a Hamas announcement that it was ending the ceasefire agreement. Trump's actual words were very clear and essentially backed Hamas against the wall with nowhere to go:

The president addressed reporters from the Oval Office Monday afternoon, delivering a clear message regarding the hostage situation.

"It's Israel's decision," he said, "but as far as I'm concerned, if all of the hostages aren't returned by Saturday at 12:00, I think it's an appropriate time. I would say cancel it—let hell break out."

When the US President said all hostages he wasn't those left in the current deal but everyone left and not one week at a time:

To clarify what he meant by the hostages' release, Trump stated, "All of them, not in dribs and drabs. Not two and one, three and four, and two."

Trump did clarify that the next decision is for Israel to make not him:

He indicated that Israel could override his position if it chose, but he condemned Hamas for its handling of the last hostage release, particularly the three men freed on Saturday who appeared to be nearly starved.

"It looked like something out of the 1930s," Trump observed. "It's an absolute disgrace. And I think they saw the way the world viewed it. They're looking for a reason not to send more."

He doubled down on the consequences as well:

He also warned Hamas, suggesting consequences if the remaining hostages were not released.

"You'll find out, and they'll find out, too," he cautioned. "Hamas will find out what I mean. These are sick people, and they'll find out what I mean. Saturday at 12."

High Noon Deadline

So high noon on Saturday, a modern day shoot out at the OK Corral. All because Hamas thought they had the upper hand:

Earlier on Monday, Hamas announced it would not release any more of the captives held since October 7, 2023, on Saturday as scheduled, blaming Israel for allegedly violating the ceasefire. Abu Obeida, spokesman for the al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, claimed Israel failed to honor the agreement. According to a statement, Hamas accused Israel of delaying the return of displaced people in northern Gaza, targeting civilians with shelling and gunfire, and failing to deliver agreed-upon relief supplies.

The delay by Hamas pushed even the most patient Israeli to demand exactly what Trump and Netanyahu are announcing which is the release of all the remaining hostages:

Families of the remaining hostages expressed deep concern over the delays.

Yair Moses, the son of a released hostage, said, "I really hope this is just power games and that negotiations will help resolve the problem. I hope we will see more hostages released this coming Saturday."

Dr. Hagai Levine from the Hostages Families Forum Health Team, claimed, "The hostages are in clear and present danger. Their lives are at risk. We saw the images of those who were released. Those still in captivity may be in even worse conditions. They simply don't have time."

Israel Agrees With Trump

In Israel, the security cabinet met and they said the same thing Trump said and gave Hamas the same deadline as we read in a [report](#) from *The Jerusalem Post*:

If Hamas does not release the hostages by Saturday at noon, the hostage-ceasefire deal will end, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday.

Netanyahu detailed Israel's next steps following the conclusion of the political and security cabinet meeting, which convened Tuesday early afternoon to discuss Hamas's suspension of the hostages' release.

Like Trump, the PM made their stance very clear for Hamas and anyone willing to listen to it but Israel is willing to initially give the terrorists a few days to get the rest of the hostages back to them. They then changed that stance to match the US president's timeline:

"If Hamas does not return our hostages by noon on Saturday, the ceasefire will end, and the IDF will resume intense fighting until Hamas is decisively defeated," Netanyahu said, adding the decision had been reached unanimously by cabinet members.

An Israeli official clarified to The Jerusalem Post that Israel expects three hostages to be released on Saturday as per the ceasefire agreement, with the rest being freed over the coming days.

However, later on Tuesday, a senior Israeli official walked back on the statement, saying that Netanyahu and the cabinet are sticking to US President Donald Trump's demand that all hostages set to be freed in phase one be released on Saturday.

Regardless of the timeline, Israel's leadership is fully onboard and it was the hostage release that solidified them:

"I have just concluded an in-depth four-hour discussion in the security cabinet. We all expressed outrage at the appalling condition of the three hostages who were released last Saturday," the prime minister said.

"We also all welcomed President Trump's demand for the release of our hostages by noon on Saturday, and we also welcomed the president's revolutionary vision for the future of Gaza," Netanyahu noted.

I suspect Hamas is willing to call their bluff and that all the terrorists will open fire on Israel and try and take them out. Hamas could surprise us and actually release the remaining hostages and I would prefer that to happen, but they've never shown that side before and I don't think they will this time. Expect things to ramp up quickly and yes, fireworks could be seen.