

Hamas frees 3 hostages, Israel releases hundreds of prisoners as fragile ceasefire holds

PTI, KHAN YOUNIS: Hamas-led militants released three male Israeli hostages Saturday and Israeli forces freed hundreds of prisoners in return, in the latest indication that a fragile ceasefire that had teetered in recent days is holding.

Militants in the southern Gaza Strip paraded the three hostages Iair Horn, 46, a dual citizen of Israel and Argentina; American-Israeli Sagui Dekel Chen, 36; and Russian-Israeli Alexander (Sasha) Troufanov, 29 before a crowd before releasing them. They were transport-

ed to Israel to be reunited with their families and to receive medical evaluation in a hospital.

All had been abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz, a community that was hard-hit in the October 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war. They appeared pale and worn, but seemed in better physical condition than the three men released last Saturday, who emerged emaciated from 16 months of captivity.

A tense dispute had jeopardised the nearly four week-old truce in recent days and threatened to renew the fighting.

US President Donald Trump's controversial proposal to remove more than 2 million Palestinians from Gaza and settle them elsewhere in the region has cast even more doubt on the future of the ceasefire.

But Hamas said Thursday it would move ahead with the release of more hostages after talks with Egyptian and Qatari officials. The group said the mediators had pledged to remove all hurdles to ensure Israel would allow more tents, medical supplies and other essentials into Gaza.

As with previous ex-

changes, the hostage release was heavily choreographed, with the captives made to walk onto a stage and speak into microphones before the crowd. Dozens of masked, armed Hamas fighters lined up near the stage festooned with Palestinian flags and banners of militant factions.

In Tel Aviv's Hostages Square, a huge cheer went up as the hostages were transferred to the Red Cross. Iair, Sagui and Sasha are on their way home! an announcer said.

In return for the hostages' release, Israel began releasing 369 Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

A bus carrying the first released prisoners arrived in the occupied West Bank town of Beitunia and were greeted by a cheering crowd of relatives and supporters. Some appeared gaunt, and the Palestinian Red Crescent emergency service said four were immediately taken for medical treatment.

Most of those released were transported to Gaza, where a large crowd greeted them in Khan Younis, the same town where the hostages had been released hours earlier.

It is the sixth swap since the ceasefire took effect on January 19. Before Saturday, 21 hostages and over

730 Palestinian prisoners were freed during the first phase of the truce.

Who are the hostages and prisoners being released? Horn was abducted along with his brother, Eitan Horn, who had been staying with him at the time. Eitan, 37, remains in captivity and is not on the list of hostages expected to be released in the ceasefire's first stage.

"Now, we can breathe a little. Our Iair is home after surviving hell in Gaza," his family said in a statement. Now, we need to bring Eitan back so our family can truly breathe.

Dekel Chen had been working outside when militants stormed the kibbutz. His pregnant wife, Avital Dekel Chen, hid in a safe room with their two daughters. She gave birth to their third daughter two months later. Speaking to Israeli media Saturday, she said she was overwhelmed with happiness to see Sagui back in Israel, where he will meet his youngest daughter, Shachar, for the first time.

Two including trans person from Assam arrested for abducting toddler in Kerala

PTI, KOCHI (KERALA): A trans person and her friend from Assam were arrested on Saturday for allegedly abducting a one-month-old toddler at Aluva near here, police said.

Rinki (20) and her associate Rashidul Haque (29), both from Assam, were arrested in a swift operation, they said.

The child, who belonged to a Bihar native was abducted and the kidnappers allegedly demanded Rs 70,000 as ransom.

The police received an alert about the abduction around 8 pm on February 14 and immediately launched an investigation. Acting on leads, officers

showed the complainant photographs of transgender individuals from the crime records at the Aluva East Police Station.

The suspect was identified, leading the police to Rinki's rented house. However, by then, she had already taken the child and fled, police said.

A thorough review of CCTV footage followed, and police teams searched key locations, including railway stations, bus stands, the airport, and district borders.

Around 10 pm, the vehicle carrying the accused was intercepted near Koratty, leading to their arrest, according to the police.

One thousand South Africans gather for pro-Trump rally

AFP, PRETORIA: About a thousand people gathered outside the US embassy in Pretoria on Saturday to show their support for President Donald Trump after he hit out at the "injust" treatment of white South Africans.

Denouncing a recent law on land expropriation and murders committed against farmers, 1,200 people took part in the rally, according to the South African police.

"It's the first time we've seen in my lifetime that a foreign president stands up for the Afrikaner people like what we've seen him do, so we have to support this," said Walter Wobben, a 52-year-old owner of a cattle farm in the Western Cape province, referring to the descendants of Dutch settlers.

He handed out "Make Afrikaners Great Again" caps to the all-white crowd, which included bikers in black leather, fans of the local Bulls rugby team and farmers wearing traditional beige shirts and shorts with leather boots.

"Less than 100 kilometres (62 miles) from here my uncle and aunt were brutally attacked, and my uncle died in hospital after being in emergency care for about three weeks," he said.

"My aunt is still in a wheelchair. She's never recovered, she can't walk. And she's got brain damage. Two elderly people in their 80s."

LORD I AM COMING HOME



CARLOTA MENEZES e DIAS
NAGZOR, BICHOLIM

Born: 25-03-1944
Died: 15-02-2025

Beloved wife of late Honorato Dias. Daughter of late Necessidade & late Lauriana Menezes. Loving mother/mother-in-law of John/Cecilia, Perry/Vincentina, Vienna/John Albuquerque (Ponda), Nelson/Chona, Grace/Joaquim Vaz (Vasco). Sister/sister-in-law of John/Mary Menezes, Rose/late Sylvano Fernandes (Calangute), late Caetano/late Theresa Dias. Loving grandmother of Joshua, Velarie, Velina, Ninouskha, Szewinska & Athaliah.

Funeral cortege will leave her residence on Sunday, 16th February 2025 at 3:45 p.m. to Our Lady of Grace Church, Bicholim for Eucharistic Celebration at 4:00 p.m. followed by burial.

Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.



LORD I AM COMING HOME
NICHOLAS FERNANDES

Bldg. No. 9, D-1, Kamat Kinara Numuxint, CARANZALEM

Born: 17-12-1968 - Died: 15-02-2025

Beloved husband of late Insu Da Cunha e Fernandes. Loving father of Joel & Joysten. Loving son of Eliza/late Bernardo Fernandes. Son-in-law of late Rosario da Cunha/late Santiana Lopes and family.

Funeral cortege will leave his residence TODAY Sunday, 16th February, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. to St. Michael Church, Taleigao, for the Eucharistic Celebration, followed by burial.

Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In everloving memory of
FATIMA FERNANDES

D.O.B 10.09.1955
Died 16.02.2022
NAVELIM / CUNCOLIM

There will be a Eucharist Celebration for the soul of our beloved **FATIMA** at 7:30am on 17.02.25 (Tomorrow) at Our lady of Health Church, Cuncolim followed by prayers and blessing at the grave.



Offered by her sorrowful husband and family
Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

3RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of



ANDRÉ PRUDENTES ALBANO CHURCHILL CORTEZ

(June 22, 1944 - Feb. 17, 2022)

There will be a Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved **PRUDENTES** on Monday, 17th February 2025 at 7:00 a.m. at Remedios Church, Nerul, Goa, followed by prayers and blessing of the grave, lovingly offered by his sorrowful family.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Third Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of



Angel Born 06:05:2008
Angel Descended 7:02:2022

BABA HEGAN ANTHONY RIBEIRO

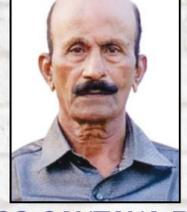
Grieving your loss and missing you the past 3 years hasn't been easy my son. Only your innocent heart and sweet memories bring light to our lives, Baba. Forever deeply missing you!

Most precious son of Byran (Edu) Ribeiro/Clefa Rodrigues. Loving grandson of Francisco Ribeiro/late Ezabel Horta. Late Henriques Rodrigues/ Late Catharina Mascarenhas

There will be a Eucharistic celebration for the soul for our Baba on 17th Feb, 2025 Monday 7:30 am at Our Lady Rosary Church, Siridao followed by blessing and prayers at Baba's grave.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

RETURNED TO THE LORD



Born to the World 15/07/1945
Returned to Eternal Bliss 15/02/2025

LUDOVICO SANTANA BARRETO
(Maina, Curtorim)

Beloved son of late Jeronimo/late Maria Idalina Cabral Son-in-law of late Jose Francis/late Maria Josefa Beloved husband of Maria Filomena Da Costa Everloving father/father-in-law of Ida/Jason, Sofia/Johan Doting grandfather of Jonas & Serena Loving brother/brother-in-law of late Edward/late Olivia, late Victorino/Maria, Filomena/late George, Mariano/Felecidade Brother-in-law of Maria Lourdes/late Lourence, late Joaquim, late Francisco/Lumena, Luizinha/Josico and late Bertha Most affectionate uncle of Nieces, Nephews and grandchildren.

Funeral cortege will leave his residence on Monday, 17th February 2025 to St. Rita's Church, Maina for Eucharistic celebration at 3:30 pm followed by burial.

Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

MONTHS MIND

In loving memory of



BORN: 13.07.1951
DIED: 17.01.2025

Mrs. Maria Torres
(Cutbona, Velim)

For, if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. Romans 14:8.

It's already a month that you left us but your memories live with us everyday, forever.

There will be month's mind Eucharistic celebration in the fond memories of my wife and our mother "Mrs. Maria Torres" on Monday 17th Feb. 2025, at 8.30 am at St. Rocks Church Tollecano followed by the prayers at the grave.

Offered by her sorrowful husband Godwin Torres, children Dr. Carolyn/Hilroy, Noel/Sheetal and grand children Harvey, Chaz and Leon.

Relatives, Friends and Neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.

3 AAP councillors join BJP, boost its chances in mayoral poll

PTI, NEW DELHI: Three AAP councillors switched over to the BJP on Saturday, boosting its chances of victory in the upcoming MCD mayoral poll.

Welcoming the councilors, city BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said Delhi will have a "triple engine" government -- at the Centre, assembly and municipal level -- at the right time to develop it as the capital of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision under a "Viksit Bharat".

The three councilors are Anita Basoya (Andrews Ganj), Nikhil Chaprana (Hari Nagar) and Dharamvir (R K Puram).

Sachdeva said the councilors joined the BJP to make Delhi a clean and beautiful city.

In the wake of its recent resounding victory in the Assembly polls, the BJP is eyeing a "triple-engine government" in Delhi by securing the post of mayor. The BJP won 48 of the 70 Assembly seats, ousting the AAP from power after a decade.

The mayoral election is scheduled to be held in April. The AAP had won the last mayoral election, held in November 2024, by three votes.

Besides the councilors, the seven Lok Sabha MPs (all of BJP), three Rajya Sabha MPs (all of AAP) and 14 nominated MLAs in Delhi are voters in the polls for mayor and deputy mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

With the joining of the three councilors, the BJP tally is now higher than that of the AAP. The BJP is also going to have 10 of its MLAs nominated to the MCD, while the AAP will have four nominations for the civic body, said BJP leaders.

In the February 5 Assembly polls, eight BJP councilors and three AAP councillors got elected to the assembly.

In the 2022 MCD polls, the AAP had won 134 wards, the BJP 104, the Congress nine and Independents three.

THREE YEARS GO BY . . .

*United in Life...
United in the Afterlife...
Reunited with their Creator*




Mr. Teotonio Pereira
(former M.L.A. of St. Andre Constituency)

Mrs. Adelaide Novais e Pereira

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY MASS
for the repose of the souls of
TEOTONIO & ADELAIDE
on Monday, 17th February 2025, at 8.00 a.m.
at St. Jerome's Church, Mapusa, Goa
followed by prayers at their graves.

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Everloving Memory of
"Forever In Our Hearts"



Born 10/07/1925
Died 16/02/2022

D. Maria Elsa Souza Machado e Menezes
(FONTAINHAS - PANJIM)

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved mother Elsa on Monday, 17th February 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at St. Sebastian Chapel, Fontainhas, Panjim offered by her sorrowful children Christopher, Maria de Jesus (Maju), Francisco (Chicote) and their families & Late Saozinha's family.

Relatives, Neighbours & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Aquila Advt. 9421377777 / 9421577777