

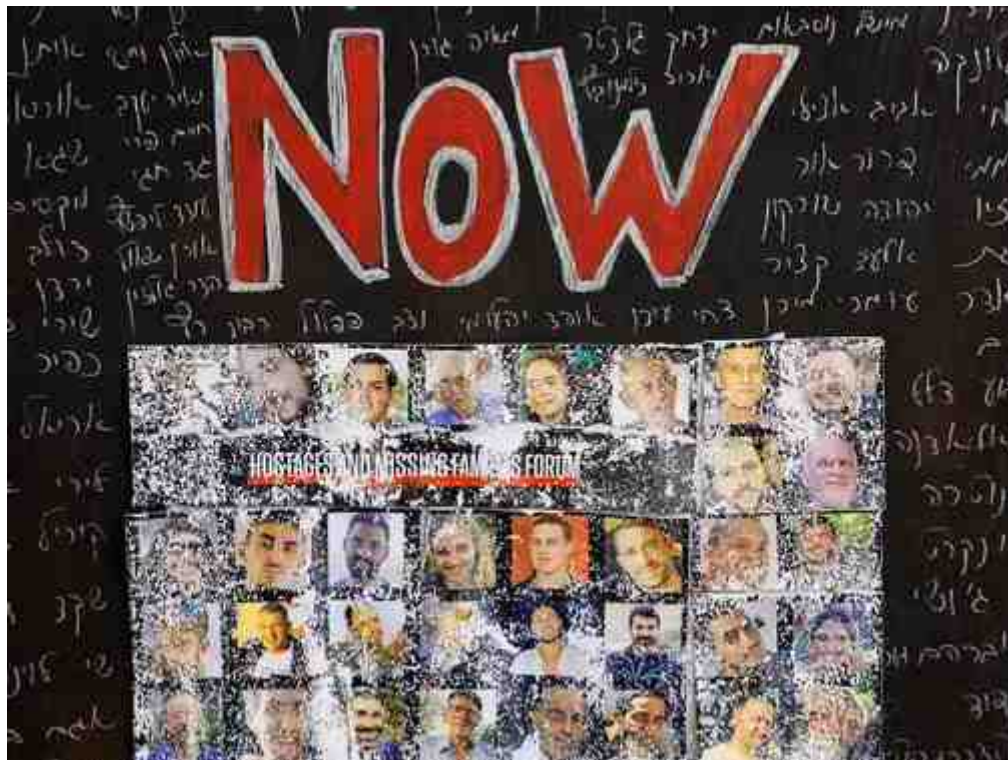
Israel News, Wednesday, 31.01.2024

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The framework for a cease-fire/hostage deal between Israel and Hamas reportedly includes the release of all civilian captives held in Gaza during a six-week cease-fire. Far-right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir opposes the deal, threatening the dissolution of Netanyahu's government. Stockholm police detonated an explosive charge found near the Israeli embassy. The IDF said it struck Syrian army posts overnight in response to rockets fired at northern Israel on Tuesday.

Here's what you need to know 117 days into the war

What happened today



■ **HOSTAGES/CEASE-FIRE:** A framework for a cease-fire/hostage deal between Israel and Hamas includes the release of all Israeli civilian hostages held in the Strip during a six-week cease-fire backed by the U.S., Qatar and Egypt, the Washington

Post reported.

- According to the report, Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli prisons will be released in exchange for Israeli captives at a rate of three prisoners for each hostage.
- The proposal also includes the condition of a non-permanent repositioning of IDF forces away from densely populated areas in the Strip and increased humanitarian aid into Gaza, and may include additional truces beyond the first six weeks, during which IDF soldiers and the bodies of hostages who were killed by Hamas would be released.
- The number of Palestinian prisoners set to be released in a potential deal has yet to be specified, a senior Hamas official told Reuters.
- U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met in Washington D.C. with families of Israeli hostages and former hostages.
- Far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said that he opposes the potential deal with Hamas, adding that "a ridiculous deal means the dissolution of the government." Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid said that his party agrees to enter the government to replace the far-right Religious Zionism party in order to promote a hostage deal.

"In other words, one way or the other – if a deal moves forward – the [Netanyahu] coalition has slim prospects of surviving in its current form" – Amos Harel

■ GAZA: The IDF continues to scale down its presence in the Strip, leaving one reservist brigade within Gaza. Division 162 is operating in northern Gaza around the al-Shati refugee camp, where Hamas appears to be attempting to rehabilitate its local regiment.

- Four Palestinians, including a child, were killed in the assassination of an Islamic Jihad member in North Rafah, according to Palestinian reports. According to the reports,

the four were inside a vehicle that was attacked from the air.

- The Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry said at least **26,900 Palestinians** have been killed and 65,949 were wounded since the war began.

■ UNRWA: Norway, a top donor to the UN agency, urged countries that have cut funding to UNRWA to consider the consequences of their actions on Gazans. The head of the World Health Organization warned that halting funding to UNRWA would lead to "catastrophic consequences" for people in Gaza.

■ ISRAEL: The chief of the IDF's Southern Command designated the Nitzana border crossing with Egypt a closed military zone. The order came after protests held in recent days against the transfer of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip while Hamas still holds Israeli hostages.

- Israel Police have announced that Sergeant Ran Guili, 24, previously thought to be held hostage by Hamas, was killed on October 7 and his body taken to Gaza.
- The IDF announced the names of four soldiers who were killed fighting in Gaza.

"The 'meaningless fringe' excuse is dead. In Israel, [what looks insane one minute becomes state policy the next](#)" - Dahlia Scheindlin

■ WEST BANK: Israeli security forces arrested 14 wanted Palestinians and seized munitions in an overnight raid, the IDF said.

■ SYRIA: The IDF said it struck Syrian army posts overnight in response to rockets fired at the Golan Heights on Tuesday.

■ LEBANON: The IDF said the Air Force and Artillery Corps bombed Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon. Earlier on Wednesday, several launches were detected from Lebanon towards northern Israel.

■ U.S.: Leaders of the U.S. Reform movement, the largest

Jewish denomination in the country, said that they were "deeply dismayed" by PM Netanyahu's recent dismissal of the possibility of a two-state solution that would provide the Palestinians with their own state.

■ **HOUTHIS:** EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said he was hopeful it could be decided on Wednesday which member state could lead the upcoming EU mission to protect vessels in the Red Sea, adding this operation could be launched before mid-February.

- U.S. CENTCOM said Iran-backed Houthi militants fired one anti-ship cruise missile from Yemen toward the Red Sea on Tuesday; a U.S. destroyer in the area shot it down.

■ **SWEDEN:** Stockholm police detonated a suspicious object found near the Israeli embassy in Sweden's capital. Israel's ambassador to Sweden, Ziv Nevo Kulman, said "Today we were subject to an attempted attack against the Embassy of Israel in Stockholm and its employees," and added that "we will not be intimidated by terror."

Context

