

# [***Been Through Hell : Israeli Hostage Speaks At Press Conference After Being Released By Hamas***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:69GB-3491-JBCM-F37G-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

October 24, 2023 Tuesday

Copyright 2023 Forbes LLC All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 513 words

**Byline:** Siladitya Ray, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** Yocheved Lifschitz, 85, who was taken hostage by Hamas and released Monday, said she was hit with sticks during the abduction but was later told by her captors she wouldn t be harmed.

**Body**

**Topline**

Yocheved Lifschitz, an 85-year-old Israeli hostagereleasedby Hamas Monday, said she and her fellow kibbutz residents were held captive inside tunnels in Gaza and described her experience as having been through hell during a press conference on Tuesday.

<figure>

<figcaption>

Yocheved Lifschitz speaks to the media alongside her daughter Sharone Lifschitz outside Ichilov Hospital after she was released by Hamas in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Getty Images

</figcaption></figure>

**Key Facts**

Lifschitz s daughter said the 85-year-old was abducted during Hamas terror attack on Israel earlier this month, where she was transported by motorbike and sustained multiple bruises and breathing difficulty.

The 85-year-old was struck on her ribs with sticks by her abductors, who then took her to a tunnel system that she compared to a spider web.

Lifschitz was dismissive of the Israeli government s border protection measures, saying the abductors easily blew up the fences that cost 2 million dollars to build but didn't help with anything, according to**Haaretz**.

Upon arriving at the tunnel, she was told by her captors that she would not be harmed because they believed in the Quran.

Lifschitz said the hostages slept on mattresses inside the tunnels, received treatment for their injuries and were fed the same thing as the captors cheese and cucumber.

**Crucial Quote**

Lifschitz described her treatment by the captors, saying: They treated us well They cleaned our toilets so we won't get diseases. She said the hostages spoke with captors but told them that ***politics*** was off limits. They were very friendly to us To their credit, they kept us very clean. They made sure we ate, we ate the same food they did.

**Big Number**

Around 222. That s the number of hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza, according to the Israeli Defense Forces. That includes both Israeli and foreign nationals. That estimate was made before Hamas released Lifschitz and another elderly woman, Nurit Cooper.

**Key Background**

Details about the hostages being held in Gaza have slowly emerged over the past week and the reported number of people being held hasfluctuated. Last week, a Hamas representative from Lebanontoldthe**New York Times** that the group does not have exact numbers of hostages being held in Gaza and said many were being held by other militant outfits in the enclave, including Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Initial numbers released by the Israeli Defense Forces suggested 199 hostages were being held in Gaza, but this number was revised upward to 203 and eventually 222. Last week, a Hamas officialsignaledthe group plans to use the hostages to secure the release of Palestinians from Israeli jails. Since then, the militant group hasreleaseda small number of hostages, including an American mother and daughter 59-year-old Judith Tai Raanan and 17-year-old Natalie.

**Further Reading**

Israel Confirms Two More Hostages Released By Hamas(Forbes)

How Many Hostages Are In Gaza? Israel Says 203 But Hamas Claims It Doesn t Know Exact Numbers (Forbes)

Hamas Releases 2 American Hostages For Humanitarian Reasons (Forbes)

**Load-Date:** October 25, 2023

**End of Document**