

HAMAS LEADER WHO PLANNED OCT. 7 IS DEAD



Yahya Sinwar in Gaza City in April 2023. Israeli troops’ discovery of his body Wednesday after a firefight in Gaza came as a surprise.

Sinwar, Israel’s Top Target, Is Killed in Unexpected Encounter in Gaza

This article is by Ronen Bergman, Aaron Boxerman, Raja Abdulrahim, Patrick Kingsley and Michael Levenson.

It was a routine patrol for a unit of Israeli soldiers in the southern Gaza Strip. Then a firefight erupted and the Israelis, backed by drones, destroyed part of a building where several militants had taken cover, Israeli officials said.

When the dust cleared and they began searching the building, the soldiers found a body that bore a striking resemblance to someone they had not expected to find, a man their country had been hunting for since Oct. 7, 2023: Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas.

For more than a year, as tens of thousands of Gazans were killed, Mr. Sinwar had eluded the full force of Israel’s military and security establishment, which had dedicated every means at its disposal to finding and killing him. Many believed he was hiding underground in Gaza and had surrounded himself with hostages taken from Israel.

In the end, the Israeli officials said, he was killed above ground on Wednesday, alongside two other militants, with no sign of hostages nearby. The Israeli authorities said they had confirmed his death on Thursday, using dental records and fingerprints. His DNA was also tested for confirmation, according to one Israeli official and the White House.

Mr. Sinwar’s death was the most severe blow to Hamas’s leadership after more than a year of escalating violence in the Middle East, and it immediately plunged the war in Gaza into a new and uncertain phase.

It came less than three weeks after Israeli forces killed the leader of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, in an airstrike south of

Beirut, the Lebanese capital.

While some hoped Mr. Sinwar’s death might signal an end to the Israeli invasion, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated that the offensive would not stop just because the engineer of last year’s deadly surprise attack on southern Israel had been killed.

“Today, evil took a heavy blow — the mission ahead of us is still unfinished,” Mr. Netanyahu said in a statement. He said that Israel remained determined to free the hostages still in Gaza, calling it an “obligation.”

He told Gazans that whoever



Celebrating Mr. Sinwar’s death Thursday in Netanya, Israel.

Militant’s Death Could Unlock Stalled Gaza Truce Negotiations

By PATRICK KINGSLEY
For more than a year, the fate of the Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar seemed entwined with the fate of the war in Gaza.

NEWS ANALYSIS
Mr. Sinwar orchestrated the Hamas assault on Israel last October that killed up to 1,200 people, captured some 250 hostages and prompted an Israeli retaliation that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and laid waste to much of the Gaza Strip.

He was considered the driving force behind Hamas’s refusal to surrender, even as Israel’s airstrikes and ground invasion devastated the territory and displaced most of its population. And his survival made it impossible for Israel to declare victory — living proof that Hamas, though decimated, remained undefeated.

Now, after Mr. Sinwar’s killing, a route toward some kind of truce in Gaza seems slightly more navigable, since it gives both Israel and Hamas a pretext to soften their stance, according

Hostages in Balance as Netanyahu Weighs Political Survival

to Israeli and Palestinian analysts. But major obstacles remain — and any solution in Gaza will have only a limited impact on the broader conflict between Israel and Hamas’s regional allies, including Hezbollah. Negotiations for a cease-fire

and a deal to release the hostages stalled partly because Mr. Sinwar held out for a permanent agreement allowing Hamas to retain power in a postwar Gaza. His maximalist stance was incompatible with that of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, who sought only a temporary truce that would allow Israel to return to battle within weeks in order to prevent Hamas’s long-term survival.

After Mr. Sinwar’s death, Hamas’s remaining leadership,

OBITUARY Yahya Sinwar, a longtime Hamas leader, was known among supporters and enemies for combining cunning and brutality. PAGE A11

Foam Fingers? Try Cross-Stitch In Liberty Green.

By REMY TUMIN
Eric Trude walked into Barclays Center on Sunday afternoon wearing one of the custom jerseys that he had designed to honor two of his great loves — hockey and the New York Liberty. Nobody was as surprised as he was.

Trude, originally from Northern Virginia, grew up hating New York sports teams. Basketball was never his thing. Now, he’s collecting signatures from his favorite Liberty players on the back of his seafoam-green jersey, which bears the name of one of the team’s star players, Sabrina Ionescu, on the nameplate. Call him a convert.

As new fans of the W.N.B.A. find their way to the game, they are expressing love for their favorite teams creatively — with homemade apparel, crochet, embroidery, painting and even crop art made out of seeds. No group is as thrilled as Liberty fans, who are hoping the team will win its first championship in the franchise’s nearly 30-year history against the Minnesota Lynx this week.

The boom in creative pursuits and art based on the players is dovetailing with the W.N.B.A.’s surge in popularity.

Trude, 32, started working with a graphic designer to create his hockey jerseys a few years ago, when the Liberty’s signature green barely registered among New Yorkers. These days he gets



“We feel very helpless,” said Babul Hawlader, whose son Sunny Hawlader vanished in 2013.

Brink of Madness in Bangladesh’s Secret Prison

By MUJIB MASHAL and SHAYEZA WALID

DHAKA, Bangladesh — When his jailers barged in before dawn, the captive thought it was the end.

For eight years, he had been held in a windowless cell of an underground prison, dark night without end. Now, the guards ordered him to finish his prayer, then removed the thick blindfold and metal handcuffs he had almost always worn and tied his wrists with cloth — leaving nothing

A Regime Disappeared Political Opponents

to incriminate them, he thought, if his body was later found floating in a river or lying in a ditch. They bundled their captive onto the floor of a minivan, hiding him under the weight of two men, and set out for an hour’s drive.

But unlike many other political

prisoners before him in Bangladesh, Mir Ahmad Quasem Arman was not being taken to his death and disposal. Instead, he said, he was dropped off in a barren field on the edge of Dhaka, the capital.

A lot had changed: new highway overpasses, a recently opened subway system. But Mr. Arman was unaware of the latest and biggest change of all. Sheikh Hasina, the prime minister who had ruled with an iron fist and vengeful designs for the past 15

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Door Knocking For Harris Gets High-Tech Help

By KATIE ROGERS
MILWAUKEE — Clutching a fistful of Harris campaign pamphlets, George Pumphrey Jr. hunched in front of a doorbell camera in a neighborhood in North Milwaukee and began yelling into the little digital peephole.

“I’m a volunteer!” he called out, asking to talk to the human being inside the home, who was visible from the window but was busy watching television. A woman’s tinny voice came through the peephole, asking Mr. Pumphrey to leave a few pamphlets at the door.

All in a day’s unpaid work for Mr. Pumphrey, 75, who knocked on doors until his knuckles bled when Barack Obama was running for president in 2008. But now, he said, a combination of exhaustion, misinformation and wariness about strangers has made it harder to reach people in Sherman Park, the predominantly Black neighborhood where he spent some of his childhood.

“The only way to do this is to meet them face to face,” he said as he walked down the street to the next house on his list. “But with all the craziness that’s going on, people don’t want to do that.”

Mr. Pumphrey’s experience does not signal the death of the door knock, exactly, but the reinvention of it, especially in places where would-be voters can be hard to reach. In Milwaukee

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Democrats Lose Fear of Calling Trump a Fascist

By JONATHAN WEISMAN
The word “fascist” has hovered around former President Donald J. Trump from the moment he rode down his golden escalator in 2015 to warn of Mexican rapists and drug dealers in the

memorable opening of his bid for president. But for most Democrats, it was a provocative term loaded with dread, historical import and potential incitement — best left unsaid.

Until Vice President Kamala Harris this week made clear — again and again — that it would be just fine with her to use the word.

On Tuesday, as the radio host Charlamagne Tha God interviewed Ms. Harris, he interjected as the vice president contrasted her vision with her rival’s. “The other is about fascism,” he said of Mr. Trump’s vision. “Why can’t we just say it?”

Ms. Harris’s response: “Yes, we can say that.”

On Wednesday, speaking in Washington Crossing, Pa., Ms. Harris quoted Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Mr. Trump, describing his former boss as “fascist to the core,” as detailed in a new book from the journalist Bob Woodward.

“America,” she said, “must heed this warning.”

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Grappling With Star’s Death
One Direction fans paid tribute to the British artist Liam Payne outside the Argentina hotel where he died. PAGE A7

Claims of Meddling in Moldova
Russia is accused of a disinformation push as a country picks a president and weighs E.U. membership. PAGE A4

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Secret Service Found at Fault
A panel studying the attempted assassination of Donald J. Trump in July called for a change in leadership. PAGE A17

Who’s Running New York?
Mayor Eric Adams is relying on civil servants to run the city and advisers to salvage his political career. PAGE A18

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A ‘Giant for Life’ No More
On Sunday, running back Saquon Barkley will travel with the Eagles to East Rutherford, N.J., to play against the team he didn’t want to leave. PAGE B6



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A Graceful Entanglement
American Ballet Theater’s fall season opened at Lincoln Center. Above, Gemma Bond’s “La Boutique.” PAGE C12

Worthy of Devotion
Centuries-old paintings from Siena, Italy, make for a magnificent exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum. PAGE C1

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Remaining Bullish on E.V.s
Despite disappointing sales of U.S. carmakers’ electric vehicles, Mary Barra, G.M.’s chief executive, is optimistic and said that the company’s models would soon be profitable. PAGE B1

Milestone in Debt Forgiveness
The Biden administration’s effort to revive and maximize use of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program has resulted in student loan forgiveness for over one million people. PAGE B1

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Michelle Cottle PAGE A20



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Star of Movie Musicals
Mitzi Gaynor was best known for the 1958 screen version of “South Pacific.” Then she shifted her focus to Las Vegas and television. She was 93. PAGE B11



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