

Trying to get his son, 13, put in prison

A Palestinian father, awaiting return of one child, hopes the other too might be freed in a hostage exchange.

By NABIH BULOS

JERUSALEM — As he waited for word on whether his 14-year-old son, Ahmad, would be released in the prisoner-for-hostage exchanges between Israel and Hamas, Nawaf Salaymah entered an East Jerusalem courtroom last week and tried to put another son, Ayham, 13, behind bars.

“I don’t want another postponement,” Salaymah said. “If Ayham goes in now, he’ll come out in the swap between Israel and Hamas, like his brother.”

Although both youths were charged with rock throwing in May, only Ahmad was being held in pre-trial detention, making him the youngest Palestinian behind Israeli bars and eligible for the exchanges during the weeklong cease-fire in Gaza that ended Friday. Ayham — too young to be jailed, according to Israeli law — has been under strict house arrest, barred even from going to school.

In this somewhat surreal moment of the Israel-Hamas war, Salaymah’s best chance for having both sons at home was to convince the judge to imprison Ayham immediately. Otherwise, the boy faced months, if not years, under house arrest and then detention as his case unfolded in court.

But 20 minutes later the session was over, Ayham’s trial was postponed once [See [Palestinians](#), A4]

GOLDEN STATE

A long and healthy life in a ‘Blue Zone’

STEVE LOPEZ

In Loma Linda the other day, 85-year-old Loida Medina played a couple of take-no-prisoners pickleball (she’s got a wicked back-hand), while Glenn and Jodee Nichols, 94 and 78, went to the gym for a workout.

These sorts of activities are the norm in this region of San Bernardino County, particularly among the several thousand Seventh-day Adventists who constitute about a third of the population. And researchers say their lifestyles, centered on faith, community and a sense of purpose, lead to lower rates of chronic disease and greater longevity.

The phenomenon isn’t new, and the reporting goes back many years. But I’ve been meaning to go have a [See [Lopez](#), A18]



A TIMES INVESTIGATION



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

IN LANCASTER, shelter dogs are facing worse odds of survival despite the promise of the nearby Palmdale center, for various reasons.

They set out to save dogs. Instead, more are being killed

When she met a jagged-eared German shepherd puppy named Pickles at the Palmdale Animal Care Center, rescuer Alyssa Benavidez thought the former stray was being overlooked by adopters and wanted to find him a home.

To draw attention to the playful 10-month-old, Benavidez recorded videos of Pickles to post online — in a red bandanna with heart designs, rolling on his back for belly rubs, a red rose rope toy in his mouth.

The shelter, though, did not give her a deadline when she emailed to ask how much time she’d have to work on his exit plan before he would be put down.

The county’s Palmdale shelter was created to ease overcrowding and reduce euthanasia in Lancaster. But that’s not how it’s turned out.

By ALENE TCHEKMEDYIAN AND ALEXANDRA E. PETRI

A day after her inquiry, on Valentine’s Day, Pickles was euthanized.

The Palmdale shelter, the newest of seven run by Los Angeles County, was touted when it opened in 2016 as a state-of-the-art facility that would relieve overcrowding and reduce the number of dogs being euthanized at the nearby Lancaster shelter.

But the two shelters now euthanize more dogs — and at a higher rate — than other county facilities, as well as those operated by Los Angeles, Long Beach and other municipalities, a Times investigation found.

Together, the Palmdale and Lancaster shelters’ dog euthanasia rates [See [Euthanasia](#), A10]

FOR REAL WITH AMY KAUFMAN

Who are the people shaping our culture? In her column, Amy Kaufman examines the lives of icons, underdogs and rising stars to find out — “For Real.”

Sarah Silverman’s moment of reckoning

In the days after the Oct. 7 attack in Israel, Sarah Silverman posted on Instagram dozens of times. Like millions around the world, she was devastated by the reports of more than 1,200 civilians killed by Hamas militants, and took to social media to express her distress. She shared videos of the festival-goers who were taken hostage, words from activists about antisemitism, a note acknowledging the war had prompted her to start praying.

Then, on the night of Oct. 18, after Israel had announced that the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip would not receive water and electricity until the hostages were freed, Silverman shared a post from an Israeli food vlogger she did not know that said Israel did not need to provide Gaza with those resources. After which she put down her phone and took her two dogs out for a walk.

By the time she returned, her cell was flooded with text messages from friends asking versions of the same question: “What the f— did you just post?”

The comedian says now that she hadn’t read the screed in full before putting it on Instagram, something she insists she never does. She has “no explanation” for why she did it that night. [See [Silverman](#), A8]



ELIZABETH WEINBERG For The Times

Suspect is arrested in three L.A. homeless killings

By JAMES QUEALLY AND RUBEN VIVES

Less than 24 hours after news broke that a serial predator might be targeting some of Los Angeles’ most vulnerable residents, police on Saturday announced the arrest of a suspect linked to the homicides of three homeless men across the city in the last week.

Jerrid Joseph Powell, 33, is accused of walking up to men in three different Los Angeles neighborhoods over a four-day span, killing each for no apparent reason, Police Chief Michel Moore said Saturday.

Moore described the killings as “senseless” and said footage of at least one homicide shows Powell acting borderline indifferent as he takes a man’s life.

“It was chilling and I’ve been in this work for four-plus decades,” Moore said of the Monday killing of Mark Diggs. “The cold-blooded [See [Killings](#), A12]

‘There is no place to go’

Israel pounds targets in crowded southern half of the Gaza Strip, driving up Palestinian death toll. **WORLD, A3**

Homeless for the holidays

After a massive fire destroys their homes, displaced residents search for answers. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Smokey Bear’s dated message

Amid climate change, “Only you can prevent wildfires” needs to be updated, Sammy Roth writes. **BUSINESS, A13**

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 70/52. **B10**



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