

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Palestinian prisoner Khalil Zama' hugs his mom after being released from an Israeli jail on Monday. **HAZEM BADER/GETTY-AFP**

Hamas releases 17 more hostages

American girl, 4, part of exchange; Israel releases 39

By Wafaa Shurafa and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — The fragile cease-fire between Israel and Hamas was back on track Sunday as the militants freed 17 more hostages, including 14 Israelis and the first American, in a third exchange under a four-day truce that the U.S. said it hoped would be extended.

In turn, Israel released 39 Palestinian prisoners.

Most hostages were handed over directly to Israel, waving to a cheering crowd as they arrived at an air force base. Others left through Egypt.

Israel's army said one was airlifted to a hospital, and the director of Soroka Medical Center said Elma Avraham, 84, was in life-threatening condition as "a result of an extended period of time when an elderly woman was not taken care of as needed."

The youngest hostage released was Abigail Edan, a 4-year-old girl and dual Israeli-American citizen whose parents were killed in the Hamas attack that started the war on Oct. 7.

"What she endured was unthinkable," President Joe Biden said of the first American freed under the truce. He did not know her condition and did not provide updates on other American hostages. Biden said his goal was to extend the cease-fire deal as long as possible.

Nine children ages 17 and younger were on the list of prisoners eligible to be released, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

Separately, Hamas said it released a Russian hostage "in response to the efforts of Russian President Vladimir Putin." The Russian-Israeli citizen was the first male hostage to be freed.

The Palestinian prisoners released were children and young men, ages 15 to 19, largely accused of public disorder, property damage and, in some cases, causing or threatening physical

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Film a love letter to Thompson Center

Part of "Running Scared," a buddy cop action comedy starring Billy Crystal and Gregory Hines, takes place in the building and serves as a time capsule for a structure facing a revamp. **Arts & Living**

Bears look to end NFC North skid

The Bears face the Vikings in Minneapolis on Monday night as they try to break a 12-game division losing streak and rebound from a heartbreaking loss to the Lions. **Chicago Sports**

State sought migrant tent camp proposals in May

Concept took shape before Johnson took office, records show

By Dan Petrella and Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's recent announcement that the state would spend \$65 million to help Chicago set up a tent encampment for migrants before winter sets in came less than two months after the second-term Democrat tried to distance himself from the

concept when it was unveiled by Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Pritzker in September said he had expressed "concerns" to City Hall about housing asylum-seekers in winterized base camps as an alternative to police stations and city airports where thousands of migrants have been sleeping while awaiting placement in the city's overburdened shelter system.

"If we have existing facilities, we ought to use all of those that are willing to do it," Pritzker said, emphasizing his preference for

■ Construction of Chicago's first tent encampment to house migrants during the winter is set to begin Monday in Brighton Park. **Chicagoland, Page 6**

bricks-and-mortar shelters and adding that tents weren't "the only option."

But state documents indicate the concept for housing migrants in tents took shape not at City Hall but within Pritzker's own administration.

Months before this fall's surge in migrant arrivals and Johnson's

tent city plan being announced in September, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency in mid-May sought proposals from companies to assist the migrant crisis by providing shelter, noting that it was looking for both indoor and "outdoor (soft sided)" lodging options, bid documents show.

The purpose of the state contract, which ultimately was signed in July with controversial contractor GardaWorld Federal Services, was to "meet the needs

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Harmony Goss, 16, in Chicago's Austin neighborhood on Nov. 14. Goss' 16-year-old cousin Demarjay Branch died days after being shot on Sept. 30. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

'I just feel alone'

The siblings of children killed by gun violence share how they cope

By Caroline Kubzansky
Chicago Tribune

Swaysiana Rankin was a bit of a loner even before her brother died.

At 17, she's worked a few jobs. She tried cheerleading, but it wasn't her thing. The Chicago teen preferred to hang out in her neighborhood with a handful of close friends or her little brother, Swaysee.

But the day before her senior year of high school began, her "big little brother," as she calls him, was killed. Swaysee was shot to death at the end of their block in the South Shore neighborhood on Sept. 4.

He was 15, one of 59 children shot to

death in Chicago in 2023, according to data from the Cook County medical examiner's office through mid-November.

Swaysiana is still here. Around her, life appears to have returned to its usual patterns, but it doesn't feel normal, she said. She keeps to herself.

"I don't talk to nobody," she said. "I don't trust no one right now."

Sudden, violent loss reverberates through families and communities all too often in Chicago. But experts say that young people who see their siblings die are particularly vulnerable to the havoc grief can leave in its wake. Losing a sibling to violence doesn't just disrupt the lives

of that child's family members — it can reshape the way a young person sees the world.

"Adolescence is a time where kids are creating their goals and their future vision," said Tali Raviv, director of School Mental Health at the Center for Childhood Resilience at Lurie Children's Hospital. "The idea that a young person could be taken and their life cut short really interferes with that process of thinking about, 'Who do I want to be? Who do I want to become?'"

Data from the Cook County medical

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"I hear the doorbell ringing a lot, and it's not him. I just know he's going to pop up, and he's not popping up." — Swaysiana Rankin, 17, of Chicago, whose brother was fatally shot on Sept. 4



People make their way through the snow Sunday in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Strong El Nino winter expected, scientists say

Here's what it could mean for snow and temps in Chicago

By Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

Chicagoans woke up Sunday morning to snow blanketing their cars and homes and a winter weather advisory in place. As flakes fell on one of the busiest travel days of the year, some might have assumed it's a harbinger of tough winter conditions to come.

■ National climate report shows flooding risks, inequities in the consequences of climate-related disasters. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

But scientists say that's probably not the case.

Measurements indicate that a "strong" El Nino is brewing through the Northern Hemisphere, with a greater than 55% chance of it continuing from January to March, according to the National Weather Service's

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