

Relief, Joy and Uncertainty as Gaza Truce Begins



OMAR AL-QATTAA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Displaced Palestinians rushed on Sunday to the Jabalia refugee camp in the north of Gaza to see what might remain of their homes.

Israel Greets 3 Released Hostages — Influx of Aid to Palestinians

This article is by Isabel Kershner, Hiba Yazbek, Aaron Boxerman, Bilal Shbair and Christopher Maug.

JERUSALEM — The sounds of celebration replaced those of explosions in the Gaza Strip on Sunday as a fragile cease-fire came into effect after 470 days of war, allowing some hostages to return home to Israel, Palestinians imprisoned in Israel to be released and displaced Gazans to search for what was left of their homes.

Under the terms of the laboriously reached deal, fighting between the Israeli military and Hamas militants stopped at 11:15 a.m., raising hopes for a more lasting end to a war that has plunged the Middle East into fear and uncertainty.

The first hostages — three women seized when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 —



AVISHAG SHAAH-YASHUV FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Emily Damari, one of the hostages taken to Gaza by Hamas in October 2023, arriving at Sheba Hospital in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

were released shortly afterward. Early Monday morning, the Israeli prison service said it had released 90 Palestinian prisoners being held in Israel, where they were met by excited family members.

At the same time, stepped-up aid deliveries — over 630 trucks in

a single day — made their way into Gaza.

Joyous Palestinians honked car horns and blasted music in the central Gaza city of Deir al Balah, where children ran around in the streets. Israelis celebrated, too, as the hostages began returning,

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Both Sides Wondering How Next Six Weeks Will Play Out

By PATRICK KINGSLEY

JERUSALEM — As a truce took hold on Sunday in Gaza, potentially ending the longest and deadliest war in a century of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, two men used the same metaphor to describe how they felt.

“The weight on my chest has lifted,” said Ziad Obeid, a Gazan civil servant displaced several times during the war. “We have survived.”

“The rock lying on my heart has been removed,” said Dov Weissglas, a former Israeli politician. “We want to see the hostages home, period.”

Both men also had a “but.” Mr. Obeid has not seen his damaged house in northern Gaza for more than a year. How bad, he wondered, is the damage? Who will rebuild a decimated Gaza? And will Hamas still run it?

Mr. Weissglas worried about the conditions of the hostages set to be freed gradually over the next few weeks from dank quarters in the territory. And he grimaced about exchanging them for hundreds of Palestinian detainees, many of whom are serving life sentences for attacks on Israelis. “There is relief,” he said, “wrapped in caution, fears and concern.”

It was an apt summary of the mood on both sides of the divide on Sunday, as Israelis and Palestinians expressed feelings of elation tinged with doubt.

For Palestinians, the truce is meant to provide at least six weeks without strikes on Gaza. That offers a window for Gazans to take tentative first steps toward reconstruction; to find relatives still buried in the rubble; and to

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WASHINGTON MEMO  
This Time, Trump Finds Deference, Not Defiance

Set for Oath in Changed City and World

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — More than 30 miles of anti-scale fencing are being erected all over the nation’s capital. Concrete barriers are being placed at key junctures. Certain roads have already been closed to traffic. Surveillance drones will flood the skies.

But if Washington looks like a war zone again, it does not necessarily feel that way. Unlike the last time President-elect Donald J. Trump took the oath of office eight years ago, the bristling tension and angry defiance have given way to accommodation and submission. The Resistance of 2017 has faded into the Resignation of 2025.

The mood leading up to the second Trump inauguration reflects how much has changed since the first Trump inauguration. Much of the world, it seems, is bowing down to the incoming president. Technology moguls have rushed to Mar-a-Lago to pay homage. Billionaires are signing seven-figure checks and jockeying for space at the inaugural ceremony. Some corporations are pre-emptively dropping climate and diversity programs to curry favor.

Some Democrats are talking about working with the newly restored Republican president on discrete issues. Some news organizations are perceived to be reorienting to show more deference. The grass-roots opposition

that put hundreds of thousands of people in the streets of Washington to protest Mr. Trump just a day after he was sworn in back in 2017 generated a fraction of that in their sequel on Saturday.

“Hashtag-resistance has turned into hashtag-capitulation,” said David Urban, a longtime Republican strategist and Trump ally. “The pink-pussy hats are gone, and they’re replaced by MAGA hats worn by Black and brown people.”

The determined protesters who did turn out for Saturday’s People’s March said they refused to give up, but some sympathized with those who expressed exhaustion by Mr. Trump’s latest victory.

“Why do we have to keep doing this?” asked Lisa Clark, 65, from Akron, Ohio, who also attended the Women’s March in 2017. “But hey, we will. We’ve been here before, and we’ll be here again if we have to be.”

For both the progressive left and the Never Trump right, this second inauguration has upended all the assumptions after eight years of fighting Mr. Trump. Their strategies and messaging failed to keep him out of power. And many of them have grown drained and demoralized.

“Democratic leaders have learned that focusing all of the energy on one man failed to

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A Presidential Legacy Framed By the Triumph of a Bitter Rival

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — President Biden ran for the White House promising to be a transitional figure, then once he got there began thinking of himself as a transformational one. But after a tumultuous four years in office, it turns out he was really neither.

Instead, Mr. Biden will end up in the history books as an interregnum between two terms of Donald J. Trump, a break in the middle of a chaotic period of change, for good or ill. Mr. Biden had hoped to make Mr. Trump an asterisk in the American story, soon to be forgotten. Now he will be the one trying to make his case for posterity.

He outlined that case on Wednesday night in a prime-time farewell address to the nation. Mr. Biden has a long list of accomplishments he takes pride in, including an expanded social safety net, a revived economy, major efforts to combat climate change and reinvigorated American leadership on the world stage.

“Instead of losing their jobs to an economic crisis that we inherited, millions of Americans now have the dignity of work,” he said from the Oval Office. “Millions of entrepreneurs and companies creating new businesses and industries, hiring American work-



ERIC LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Biden in the final weeks of his presidency.

ers, using American products. And together, we have launched a new era of American possibilities: one of the greatest modernizations of infrastructure in our entire history, from new roads, bridges, clean water, affordable high-speed internet for every American.”

But hobbled by inflation, illegal immigration and his own advancing age, Mr. Biden leaves office as an unpopular one-term president, turning over the Oval Office to a

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ERIN SCHAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES

In Altadena, Calif., wind pushed flames to the edge of the Mountain View Mortuary and Cemetery.

As Living Fled Fire, a Sprint to Save the Dead

By NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS

ALTADENA, Calif. — As she drove to work, Genevieve Alba could see the flames churning through the mountains above Altadena. They looked far off, and with a funeral the next day, there was still plenty to do.

A woman needed to be prepared for the service, a careful embalming task that Ms. Alba began around 3:30 a.m. in a windowless room at the Mountain View Mor-

Cemetery Acreage May Have Spared Homes

tuary and Cemetery. The smell of smoke was getting worse and worse, but Ms. Alba thought little of it as she focused intently on bathing the woman and setting her features.

Then, as the sun began to rise, her boss flew into the room in a

panic. The town, he told her, was on fire. They rushed outside and saw home after home consumed by flames.

“The sky was just red and there were explosions everywhere,” recalled Ms. Alba, 30.

At a cemetery, there is a lot to consider when flames are upon you. Employees thought of their own safety, yes, but also felt a duty to those who entrusted them with their departed loved ones.

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TikTok Revived After Trump Pledges to Stall Ban

By DAVID McCABE

WASHINGTON — TikTok flickered back to life in the United States on Sunday after President-elect Donald J. Trump said that he would issue an executive order to stall a federal ban of the app.

The abrupt shift came just hours after major app stores removed the popular social media site and it stopped operating for U.S. users as a federal law took effect on Sunday. The company said

Test of Executive Power Over an Upheld Law

in a post on X that in “agreement with our service providers, TikTok is in the process of restoring service.”

Mr. Trump said in a Sunday morning post on Truth Social that he would “issue an executive order on Monday to extend the peri-

od of time before the law’s prohibitions take effect, so that we can make a deal to protect our national security.”

The ban stems from a 2024 law that requires app stores and cloud computing providers to stop distributing or hosting TikTok unless it is sold by its Chinese parent company, ByteDance. Lawmakers passed the law over concerns that the Chinese government could use the app, which claims

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In Windsor, Fears of Tariffs

A 25 percent duty on Canadian imports could ravage the auto industry in the city called “a suburb of Detroit.” PAGE A4

Interrogated at Iranian Prison

Cecilia Sala, an Italian journalist, found herself in the middle of Iran’s hostage diplomacy. PAGE A10

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Paroled, but Still Behind Bars

Prisons across the country are struggling to find nursing home placements for sick prisoners after granting them medical parole. PAGE A16

Medicare Takes On Ozempic

The government is expected to pay lower prices for some weight loss drugs starting in 2027. PAGE A16

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Remote Work at Risk in D.C.

In the second Trump era, federal employees who have grown attached to hybrid work face a challenge. PAGE B1



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Quarterbacks Who Rose Up

Ohio State’s Will Howard, above, and Notre Dame’s Riley Leonard meet in the College Football Playoff final. PAGE D3

The Rattier, the Better

The Bruins star Brad Marchand wears hockey gloves that are not only broken in, but beaten up. PAGE D7

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A Renowned New York Chef

André Soltner created impeccable French dishes at the Lutèce restaurant that drew repeat customers and, one food critic said, “set the gold standard.” He was 92. PAGE B6

Painter Who Found Fame Late

Zilia Sánchez, a Cuban-born minimalist who spent much of her life in Puerto Rico, was in her 90s when her erotically charged work first appeared at the Venice Biennale. She was 98. PAGE A22

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Esau McCauley

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Astute, and Dapper, as Ever

In a new collection about New York, Gay Talese turns his eye on its icons, its architecture, its hot spots — and on what people are wearing. PAGE C1

