

Half a million Palestinians returning to Gaza City

13th October 2025



Around half a million Palestinians are returning to Gaza City following the start of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. The truce followed extensive efforts and negotiations between Israel, Hamas, the USA, and Arab nations. The deal was

orchestrated by US President Donald Trump, who hopes to bring peace to the region. The first phase of his peace deal involved the withdrawal of Israeli military from a large section of Gaza, and for Hamas to release the 48 hostages remaining in captivity. The laying down of arms has allowed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to head north to Gaza City, most of which is in ruins after two years of being bombarded and reduced to rubble.

Emotions have been running high in recent days among Israelis and Palestinians. Alongside the release of the Israeli hostages, nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees are expected to be freed. The brother-in-law of hostage Omri Miran told the New York Post: "I have yet to process it all. I am naturally happy that this nightmare may soon be over." Gaza City residents are relieved to be able to return home, despite the widespread destruction, almost no infrastructure, no electricity, and no running water. One resident said: "I pray that God relieves our sorrow and distress, and that people return to their homes." Another man was more cautious after being displaced 20 times in the past two years.

Sources: nypost.com / cnn.com / apnews.com

Writing

The United Nations should lead efforts to rebuild Gaza. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Palestinians / Gaza / ceasefire / negotiations / peace / region / hostages / ruins / emotions / in recent days / prisoners / nightmare / relieved / infrastructure / cautious

True / False

- 1) Half a million people live in Gaza. T / F
- 2) The first stage of the ceasefire involves Israel's army leaving all of Gaza. T / F
- 3) Hamas must release 48 hostages as part of the ceasefire. T / F
- 4) The article says Gaza City has been hit by bombs for the past two years. T / F
- 5) The ceasefire requires Israel to release almost 2,000 prisoners. T / F
- 6) An Israeli man said he is happy the nightmare might soon be over. T / F
- 7) Only half of Gaza City has electricity. T / F
- 8) A Gaza City resident has moved 20 times in the past two years. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. returning | a. freeing |
| 2. ceasefire | b. area |
| 3. extensive | c. wary |
| 4. section | d. truce |
| 5. bombarded | e. sadness |
| 6. release | f. comprehensive |
| 7. nightmare | g. relocated |
| 8. sorrow | h. going back |
| 9. cautious | i. horror |
| 10. displaced | j. shelled |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the ceasefire?
- b) How hopeful are you that the ceasefire will lead to peace?
- c) Who should lead the efforts to rebuild Gaza?
- d) What will bring everlasting peace to the region?
- e) How might peace in the Middle East change the world?
- f) What do you think Gaza will be like in ten years from now?
- g) What do hope Gaza will be like in ten years from now?
- h) What advice do you have for people who live in Gaza?

Phrase Match

1. extensive efforts
 2. The first phase of
 3. the 48 hostages remaining
 4. in ruins after two years
 5. reduced to
 6. Emotions have been running
 7. Alongside the release
 8. this nightmare may
 9. widespread
 10. I pray that God relieves our sorrow
- a. his peace deal
 - b. and distress
 - c. high in recent days
 - d. rubble
 - e. destruction
 - f. in captivity
 - g. soon be over
 - h. of being bombarded
 - i. of the Israeli hostages
 - j. and negotiations

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about Gaza?
- c) What do you know about the history of the Palestinians and Israelis?
- d) What problems might there be in the rebuilding of Gaza?
- e) What can you do to help?
- f) What do you think of the leaders in the region?
- g) How important are the USA and UN in maintaining the peace?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the peace negotiators?

Spelling

1. extensive efforts and ontiotengas
2. ersathrtoecd by US President Donald Trump
3. the wlitdawrah of Israeli military
4. the 48 hostages remaining in pctiaviyt
5. in ruins after two years of being dobbmndrae
6. reduced to ebblur
7. 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and eetsneiad
8. I have yet to csopres it all
9. Gaza City residents are vieledre
10. almost no frtrtertuusican
11. our oorwsr and distress
12. Another man was more isuaucot

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. f	4. b	5. j
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. c	10. g

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What did the truce follow?
2.	Who orchestrated the truce?
3.	What must Israel's army leave in the first phase of the truce?
4.	What was laid down to facilitate the return of Gaza City residents?
5.	What does the article say happened to Gaza City in the past two years?
6.	What have emotions been doing recently?
7.	What did an Israeli man say he was happy about being over?
8.	What does Gaza City not have besides infrastructure and electricity?
9.	What did a Gaza City resident pray God would relieve?
10.	How many times has a Gaza City resident been displaced in two years?

Speaking – Rebuilding Gaza

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important infrastructure Gaza needs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Roads
- Police stations
- Schools
- Railway stations
- Hospitals
- Courts
- Airports
- Ports

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.