

# Trump says Israel accepts 60-day cease-fire terms, threatens Hamas

**Ben Samuels,  
Jonathan Lis, Noa Shpigel  
and Bar Peleg**

Donald Trump on Tuesday said Israel agreed in principle to a 60-day cease-fire/hostage-release deal, while threatening Hamas to accept the terms.

Though Trump's Truth Social post alludes to significant developments, the U.S. president is in a position similar to one faced by his predecessor, Joe Biden, and his own Mideast envoy, Steve Witkoff: Hamas is demanding a deal that includes a guarantee of a permanent end to the war in Gaza and a guarantee that Israel will not simply resume fighting after the truce ends.

"My Representatives had a long and productive meeting with the Israelis today on Gaza. Israel has agreed to the necessary conditions to finalize the 60 Day CEASE-FIRE, during which time we will work with all parties to end the War," Trump posted on his social media platform after a White House meeting between senior U.S. officials and Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, the key confidant of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The Qataris and Egyptians, who have worked very hard to help bring Peace, will deliver this final proposal. I hope, for the good of the Middle East, that Hamas takes this Deal, because it will not get better – IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE," Trump added. "Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

Trump's post comes shortly after he noted he



Protesters on in Tel Aviv on Wednesday demonstrating for the return of the hostages held in Gaza.

Tomer Appelbaum

would be "very firm" with Netanyahu during his Washington visit next week about ending the war. This was qualified by Trump insisting that Netanyahu, too, wanted the war to end.

An Israeli source told Haaretz that according to the updated proposal, to

which Dermer gave a positive response, Israel showed flexibility toward Hamas on several points. The source said Israel compromised on issues concerning the depth of the Israeli withdrawal during the cease-fire, though according to the proposal, the army will not

withdraw beyond the point that it withdrew during the previous cease-fire. Additionally, according to the source, a withdrawal from the Philadelphia corridor is not on the table.

The source also said Israel has agreed to be more flexible regarding the dis-

tribution of humanitarian aid. According to him, the proposal does not provide details regarding the manner in which the aid will be distributed; however, it was agreed that the relevant clauses of the proposal would be worded similarly to the corresponding claus-

es in the previous cease-fire deal. The source also noted that Israel agreed that during the cease-fire, large amounts of aid would be brought into the Gaza Strip. The source noted that while the proposal does not

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## Court grants PM's request to postpone trial due to D.C. visit

**Yael Freidson**

The Jerusalem District Court on Wednesday approved Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request to postpone his testimony in his corruption trial, which had been scheduled for next week, due to his upcoming trip to Washington.

While the prosecution did not oppose the postponement, it requested that additional hearings be held the following week. The judges have not yet ruled on that request.

The court's summer recess is set to begin on July 21, though hearings have already been scheduled for the first week of the break.

Instead of Netanyahu's testimony, the cross-examination of Likud MK Moshe Saada will take place. Saada, a former deputy head of the Justice Ministry department that investigates allegations of police misconduct, known by its Hebrew acronym Mahash, was summoned as a defense witness in Netanyahu's corruption trial after being excluded from the prosecution's witness list.

During two previous court appearances, Saada accused former Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit and former State Prosecutor Shai Nitzan of obstructing Mahash investigations to avoid straining their relationship with then-Police Commissioner Roni Alsheikh during the Netanyahu probes.

Prosecutor Yehudit Tirosh is expected to question Saada over two days. The judges instructed both sides to make full use of the scheduled hearing days and to ensure that subsequent defense witnesses, including former Mahash investigator Dov Shertzer, are prepared to tes-

tify immediately after Saada concludes.

The court on Sunday granted Netanyahu's request to cancel his scheduled testimony in his corruption trial for the coming week, but ruled it was too early to determine whether testimony should also be canceled for the following week.

The decision followed an initial rejection by the court on Friday and came after a closed-door hearing attended by Military Intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Shlomi Bindner and Mossad director David Barnea.

## Soldier killed in Gaza combat

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Their appearance in court was made at the request of Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz, with IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir authorizing Binder's participation.

After the initial postponement, Netanyahu submitted a second request to cancel his testimony over the next two weeks, attaching a sealed envelope for the judges that included details of his upcoming schedule. The judges rejected the request, stating, "The schedule presented does not contain any exceptional information, details, or circumstances that would justify canceling the hearings."

Following a closed-door session, the judges added that the most recent explanations "included a substantial addition and significant changes

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A wildfire near Latrun in April.

Noam Revkin-Fenton

## Poll: Fewer than half of Israelis trust Netanyahu

**Linda Dayan**

Despite the popularity in Israel of the 12-day war with Iran, fewer than half of Israelis says they trust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to a survey released by the Israel Democracy Institute on Wednesday.

The survey was conducted on June 22 and 23, before

the U.S.-brokered cease-fire that ended the war. It asked Israelis about their levels of trust in figures in key leadership positions.

About 70 percent of respondents said that they trust IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir "very much" or "quite a lot"; 77 percent of Jewish respondents and 25 percent of Arabs. Behind him was Mossad director

David Barnea, with 67 percent of respondents saying they trust him (74 percent of Jews and 35 percent of Arabs).

Netanyahu trails far behind, with just 46 percent of respondents saying they trust him very much or quite a lot. Among Jews, 46 percent said they trust him; among Arabs, the figure drops to 10 percent.

Members Netanyahu's governing coalition also enjoy little support. Less than 40 percent said that they trust Defense Minister Israel Katz, 25 percent said they trust Education Minister Yoav Kisch and just 20 percent said that they trust Transportation Minister Miri Regev.

The trust levels were highest among respondents

who consider themselves right-wing; 64 percent of them said that they trust Netanyahu, and 53 percent said that they trust Katz. But for other figures, the numbers remained low, even among their base. Just 35 percent of right-wingers said they trust Kisch, and 30 percent said they trust Regev.

"Overall, we have not

seen substantial shifts in public opinion regarding Prime Minister Netanyahu as a result of the war with Iran," said Prof. Tamar Hermann, director of IDI's Viterbi Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research. "While support for the war with Iran was high across the board, this and

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## Disturbing glimpse into his inner world

## In interview, Yair Netanyahu reveals his contempt for Israel

Analysis **Chaim Levinson**

The word that echoed throughout Yair Netanyahu's "interview" on the Jewish news portal Tov was "normalcy." But rarely has there been a wider gap between someone invoking the concept and the reality.

Young Netanyahu wouldn't recognize normalcy if it stood outside a Tel Aviv hair salon shouting through a megaphone.

For those already familiar with the crown prince's usual output, the interview didn't reveal much that was new – except perhaps the excuse he now offers for leaving the country. What it did offer was an hour-long, unsettling display of delusion that's no longer confined to Yair Netanyahu himself but has become emblematic of the Likud party as a whole.

The Hebrew phrase "the generation is diminishing" (a rough American equivalent might be "They don't make them like they used to" or "kids these days") might well have been coined for this family. If the grandfather was an educated and

dignified man, and his son a charlatan – albeit one who respected institutions and history – then Yair Netanyahu is a hybrid of Marjorie Taylor Greene and Tucker Carlson: speaking in a soft voice, eyes darting with no ability to maintain focus on the person in front of him, delivering scripted talking points and barely capable of sustaining a dialogue.

Time and again, he described the United States as a "normal" country – while blatantly distorting its political system. But it hardly matters. In the universe he inhabits, facts are irrelevant. There's no use correcting the dozens of factual errors in the interview, because truth itself has no standing in the worldview he promotes.

There is no country Yair Netanyahu despises more than Israel – and it's no coincidence that he no longer wants to live there. To him, the state is rotten to its core – though, naturally, this has nothing to do with the man who has led it for more than 15 years. In Yair

Netanyahu's view, every institution is broken, worthy of contempt and ridicule, and guilty of betraying the trust of "the real people" and those who "truly represent them."

Aside from endless praise for his father – the man who, in his telling, stood alone against Iran for 30 years – the son cannot offer a single positive word about anyone else in the country. Without this great and mighty father, he implies, we'd all be facing annihilation.

In truth, this is not just Netanyahu Jr.'s worldview – it's the worldview of the entire destructive Likud movement. Mapai, the historic Labor Zionist party that led the country until 1968, built the state and its institutions. Yair Netanyahu's Likud seeks to dismantle them. The Supreme Court, the State Attorney's Office, the Attorney General, the media, the Air Force, military intelligence, academia, expertise, the rule of law and public decency – all are now seen as enemies and as targets.

In this worldview, only

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## How Palestinians factor into a future Israel-Syria peace deal

**Naghm Zbeedat**

Palestinians and Syrians have long shared historical and political ties, but as Israeli and U.S. officials talk up a possible Israel-Syria 'end of conflict' deal, questions arise over how the Palestinian issue will factor into Damascus' decisions under its new leader, Ahmad al-Sharaa.

Palestinians have historical and ideological connections with Syrians, a relationship that "goes back over a century," says Thair Abu Ras, a researcher in government and Israel studies at the University of Maryland; he is originally from Qalansuwa, an Arab city in central Israel.

"Many Syrians see Palestine as part of the greater Syria region, they view it as historically tied to their own land. In fact, the first Palestinian Arab Congress in 1919 called for the cancellation of the Balfour Declaration and supported the idea of uniting with Syria in a single, greater Syrian state."

He adds that their shared experience of occupation has further linked their fates. He notes that the status of the Golan Heights, half of which Israel annexed in 1981 and the other half oc-



Syrians demonstrating in the southern city of Suwayda in February.

Shadiel Dubaisi/AFP

cupied in December 2024, will be the biggest obstacle to any potential deal. "Syria has its own occupied territory, the Golan Heights, while Palestinians have faced occupation for decades. That common struggle has kept the two causes aligned."

For the past 50 years, he says, Syria's Ba'athist regime also adopted a pan-Arab ideology that places the liberation of Palestine at its core. "Support for the

Palestinian cause has been embedded in the identity of the official Syrian state; it's a cornerstone of how the regime defined itself."

Still, Abu Ras notes that Syria's alignment with the Palestinian cause hasn't always been seen as purely altruistic. "Some view Ba'athist Syria as a genuine supporter of Palestinian liberation because of its anticolonial, pan-Arab ideology," he said. "But others have

long argued that the regime used the Palestinian issue to serve its own interests."

The relationship between Syria and Palestinian factions has also shifted over time, especially since the Syrian civil war began in 2011. "Most Palestinian factions ended up backing the Assad regime," Abu Ras noted. "But the largest faction, Hamas, did not. They

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