

1274

Around 1,000 soldiers of the Mongol army land on the Japanese island of Tsushima in the first attack of Kublai Khan's Mongol invasion of Japan

1789

Women of Paris march to Versailles in the March on Versailles to confront Louis XVI about his refusal to promulgate the decrees on the abolition of feudalism, demand bread, and have the king and his court moved to Paris



1864

Most of Calcutta is destroyed by a cyclone, killing approximately 60,000 people

1988

Chile votes in a referendum 56-44 against extending Augusto Pinochet's regime by 8 years, ending the dictator's 16 years in power

Trump envoys Witkoff, Kushner head to Egypt to discuss hostage releases: White House

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and a senior US envoy are heading to Egypt yesterday to finalize hostage release details, a White House official said after Hamas reacted positively to a peace plan to end two years of war.

A White House official confirmed that Kushner and Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff are heading to the Middle East to address the finalization of details on the release of hostages and to discuss the deal pushed by Trump to bring an end to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian militant group.

After Hamas said it was ready to release all hostages and discuss details on the peace plan, Trump urged an immediate halt to the fighting in Gaza



US special envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff (R) and Jared Kushner

Gaza civil defence says heavy strikes despite Trump appeal

Jerusalem, Undefined

Gaza's civil defence agency said yesterday that Israel carried out dozens of attacks on Gaza City despite US President Donald Trump's appeal to end bombardments after Hamas accepted a ceasefire deal.

"It was a very violent night, during which the (Israeli army) carried out dozens of air strikes and artillery shelling on Gaza City and other areas in the Strip, despite President Trump's call to halt the bombing," civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

Bassal, whose agency is a rescue force which operates under Hamas authority, added that 20 homes were destroyed in the overnight bombardments.

"The situation is very serious in Gaza City," Bassal said, adding that his teams were not able to reach all the casualties due to the "presence of tanks and the ongoing bombardment".

Contacted by AFP, the Israeli military said it was "checking" reports of overnight bombardments on Gaza City.

Guns to fall silent in Gaza

International reactions have been pouring in following Hamas's positive response on Friday to US President Donald Trump's plan to free Israeli hostages in Gaza and end the nearly two-year conflict. Here are some of the main reactions from around the world:



Trump



Guterres



Macron



Merz



Starmer

United States

"Based on the Statement just issued by Hamas, I believe they are ready for a lasting PEACE. Israel must immediately stop the bombing of Gaza, so that we can get the Hostages out safely and quickly!" Trump posted on Truth Social.

The US leader also said in a brief video message that "everybody will be treated fairly" in talks on the future of Gaza.

Israel

"In light of Hamas's response, Israel is preparing for the immediate implementation of the first stage of the Trump plan for the release of all the hostages," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

"We will continue to work in

full cooperation with the President and his team to end the war in accordance with the principles set out by Israel, which align with President Trump's vision," the statement added.

Mediators

Qatar "welcomes the announcement by Hamas of its agreement to President Trump's plan", said foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari, also expressing support for Trump's call for an immediate ceasefire.

Egypt said it hoped "this positive development will lead all parties to rise to the level of responsibility by committing to implementing President Trump's plan on the ground and end the war".

United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "welcomes" Hamas's response and "urges all parties to seize the opportunity to bring the tragic conflict in Gaza to an end", spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

UN rights chief Volker Turk said he hoped the plan would "pave the way for a permanent cessation of hostilities...

in line with international human rights and humanitarian laws".

It was, he said, a "vital opportunity for all parties and influential states to pursue in good faith and stop -- once and for all -- the carnage and the suffering in Gaza, to flood the strip with humanitarian aid, and to ensure the release of the hostages and numerous detained Palestinians".

Europe

"The release of all hostages and a ceasefire in Gaza are within reach!" French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on X, joining a chorus of hopeful European reactions to Hamas's response.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the plan represented "the best chance for peace" in the conflict and that Germany "fully supports" Trump's "call upon both sides".

Britain's Keir Starmer called Hamas's acceptance "a significant step forwards" and urged all sides "to implement the agreement without delay".

Turkey



Erdogan

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he believed Hamas was showing "as it has done many times before, that it is ready for peace".

The foreign ministry said the Palestinian group's response "provides an opportunity for the immediate establishment of a ceasefire in Gaza".

Jordan

Jordan's foreign ministry welcomed Hamas's response.

It "stressed the need to immediately halt the Israeli aggression on Gaza, open the border crossings to allow the immediate, adequate and sustainable delivery of humanitarian aid to all parts of the strip, and launch a genuine effort to achieve a just peace".



TOP
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TWEETS

01



I welcome and I am encouraged by the statement issued by Hamas announcing its readiness to release hostages and to engage on the basis of the recent proposal by @POTUS. I urge all parties to seize the opportunity to bring the tragic conflict in Gaza to an end.

@antonioguterres

02



We welcome President Trump's leadership as peace efforts in Gaza make decisive progress. Indications of the release of hostages mark a significant step forward. India will continue to strongly support all efforts towards a durable and just peace.

@narendramodi

03



I welcome Hamas's commitment to release the hostages and Israel's support of the US peace plan for #Gaza, which includes stopping the bombing within the Strip. In two years, we have never been closer to securing peace than now. We cannot miss this opportunity. Too many lives been lost and shattered.

@DrTedros

04



The release of all hostages and a ceasefire in Gaza are within reach! Hamas' commitment must be followed up without delay. We now have the opportunity to make decisive progress towards peace.

@EmmanuelMacron

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

Trump says 'will not tolerate delay' from Hamas on peace deal

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday warned Palestinian group Hamas to "move quickly" and agree to a peace deal with Israel or risk further devastation in Gaza.

"Hamas must move quickly, or else all bets will be off. I will not tolerate delay, which many think will happen, or any outcome where

Gaza poses a threat again," Trump posted on his Truth Social page. "Let's get this done, FAST."

He also expressed appreciation that "Israel has temporarily stopped the bombing in order to give the Hostage release and Peace Deal a chance to be completed," although the enclave's civil defense agency said Israel carried out dozens of attacks on Gaza City overnight.

Israel confirms 137 more activists from Gaza-bound flotilla deported to Turkey

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel said yesterday that it had deported 137 more activists who were detained while taking part in an aid flotilla bound for Gaza.

The Israeli foreign ministry said those deported were citizens of the United States, Italy, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Jordan and several other countries.

The ministry said in a post on X that "137 more provocateurs of the Hamas-Sumud flotilla were deported today to Turkey".

"Israel seeks to expedite the deportation of all provocateurs," it

added.

On Friday, Israel deported four Italian activists, the first of hundreds detained from the flotilla.

The Global Sumud Flotilla set sail last month, ferrying politicians and activists including Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg towards Gaza, where the United Nations says famine is taking hold. The Israeli navy began intercepting the boats on Wednesday, and an Israeli official said the following day that boats with more than 400 people on board had been prevented from reaching the Palestinian territory.