

Background note - One year of diplomacy and mediation by Qatar to end the Israel-Gaza war and release of hostages

Over the past year, Qatar has worked tirelessly with the United States, Egypt, and other international partners to

de-escalate the crisis in Gaza, mediating between Israel and Hamas to try to end the bloodshed, ensure humanitarian aid reaches innocent Palestinian civilians, and secure the release of hostages.

Brokered agreements

- October 2023: In October, negotiations with Hamas brokered by Qatar led to the [release](#) of a mother and daughter from the United States, who had been held in Gaza since October 7.

- o Following the return of the two Americans, President Biden [thanked](#) the government of Qatar for their partnership in this work.

- November 2023: In coordination with the United States, Qatar mediated an [agreement](#) between Egypt, Israel and Hamas to allow for the movement of foreign passport holders and some critically injured people out of Gaza through the Rafah border crossing.

- November 2023: Qatar-led mediation secured an initial four-day humanitarian pause to facilitate the exchange of Israeli hostages with Palestinian prisoners, and for vital humanitarian aid to enter Gaza.

- o The humanitarian pause was extended by an additional two days, and then by a further day to facilitate the transfer of aid and to allow more exchanges to take place.

- o In total, these mediation efforts led to the release of [109 detainees](#), including 85 Israeli hostages and 20 workers.

- o The pause was welcomed by global leaders from countries including the [United States](#) and the [United Kingdom](#), as well as the [United Nations](#).

- January 2024: In partnership with the French government, Qatar mediated an agreement between Israel and Hamas to deliver [urgent medication](#) to 45 Israeli hostages with chronic illnesses in return for humanitarian and medical aid for the most vulnerable Palestinian civilians.

- o The delivery of aid was coordinated on the ground by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

- o Qatar was able to secure a [confirmation](#) from Hamas that the shipment of medicines had been received and was being delivered to the hostages.

Ongoing efforts

Since the humanitarian pause in November, Qatar has continued to pursue all avenues to de-escalate the crisis, alleviate the suffering, and bring the hostages home. This has included frequent talks with officials from

other mediating countries, such as the United States and Egypt, as well as negotiations with Israeli officials and

Hamas representatives through the political office established in Doha over a decade ago in cooperation with

the United States.

Meetings with hostage families

Qatari officials have also held frequent meetings with the hostage families to maintain an open line of communication with those seeking updates on their loved ones. These efforts have been deeply appreciated by

the families, who continue to campaign for the peaceful release of their family members.

This has included meetings with Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs (see [here](#) and [here](#)),

Qatar's Ambassador to the United States (see [here](#)), and Qatar's Minister for State (see [here](#)).

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