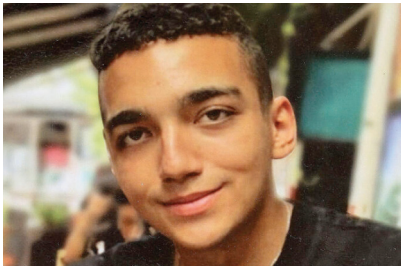


# Hamas to release last living U.S. hostage

The Palestinian militant group says Edan Alexander will be freed in Gaza as part of efforts to establish a ceasefire and reopen crossings into the Israeli-blockaded territory



*Edan Alexander, 21, (above) is one of at least 59 hostages in Gaza – about 24 of them are said to be alive*

## HOSTAGE CRISIS TIMELINE

■ **Oct 7, 2023:** Hamas-led militants attack southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages

■ Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** (right) says Israel is at war. Retaliatory airstrikes on Gaza begin, along with siege of coastal enclave



■ **Oct 27:** Israel launches ground offensive in Gaza, vowing to free hostages and eradicate Hamas

■ **Nov 24-30:** Temporary truce sees Hamas release 105 hostages in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel

■ **Dec 15:** Israeli forces mistakenly kill three hostages in Gaza. Incident prompts strong criticism within Israel about conduct of war

■ **Feb-Aug 2024:** Israeli troops rescue seven hostages in raids in central and southern Gaza

■ **Aug 31:** Israel discovers bodies of six slain hostages in Hamas tunnel in southern Gaza. Deaths spark mass protests in Israel demanding government enter hostage deal with Hamas

■ **Dec 2:** U.S. President-elect **Donald Trump** (right) says there will be "hell to pay" if hostages are not freed before his Jan 20 inauguration



■ **Jan 19, 2025:** 42-day ceasefire between Israel and Hamas comes into effect

■ Ceasefire sees 33 Israeli and five Thai hostages freed in return for 1,900 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Israel pulls out troops from populated areas of Gaza and allows in hundreds of aid trucks per day

■ **Mar 2:** Israel blocks aid entry after Hamas refuses to accept U.S. proposal to extend ceasefire

■ **Mar 18:** Israel renews military action in Gaza, shattering ceasefire

■ **May 11:** Hamas says it will free U.S.-Israeli soldier Edan Alexander. Announcement precedes visit by Trump to Middle East