

# What the Israel-Hamas Ceasefire in Gaza Means for the Middle East

by [David Makovsky \(/experts/david-makovsky\)](/experts/david-makovsky)

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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**Netanyahu likely wanted to start off on a good foot with Trump—not just out of fear, but because Israel has its eyes on a much wider allied agenda in the region.**

Israelis and Palestinians—filled with relief, exuberance, sadness and some suspicion—celebrated on Thursday as a deal was struck to release hostages held in the Gaza Strip as part of a ceasefire with Hamas. If the truce holds, one of Israel’s longest wars since the Jewish state was founded will come to an end. Yet the situation remains fragile. Last-minute brinkmanship could see the sides hit pause on the 42-day first phase of the deal, set to begin in the coming days...

**[Read the full article on the U.S. News & World Report website.](#)**

**<https://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2025-01-17/trump-biden-israel-gaza-ceasefire-hostages>** ❖

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