

Burning Questions: What Is Trump's Real Deadline? And for What?

By Phyllis Chesler

Will President Trump's deadline function as a real deadline—or will it turn out to be the beginning of torturous and extended “negotiations” which will mainly benefit Qatar, Hamas, various Islamist factions—as well as American and Middle East Arab billionaire interests in investments in the Islamic Middle East?

In short, will economic interests trump everything? Even if such investments are believed to lead to more stability and wealth in the region, I fear that Westerners simply do not understand the nature and history of Muslims or of shame and honor tribal cultures. “Cease fires” are all only temporary. “Cease fires” last only as long as it takes the Islamists to regroup, rearm, resupply, and continue their permanent Intifada against Jews, infidels, other Islamic sects, dissidents, atheists—and women, their own, yours. Islam is not a religion of “peace.” Please read the works and watch the videos of my friends and traveling companions, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Mohammed Anwar, Nonie Darwish, Yasmine Mohammed, Bat Ye'or, and Ibn Warraq for starters.

Will we actually get to see all of Israel's hostages tonight or tomorrow? If not, why not? And if not, why hold meetings about any of the other points?



The 48 hostages held in Gaza: First row, from left: Rom Braslavski, Gali Berman, Ziv Berman, Elkana Bohbot, Matan Angrest, Avinatan Or, Yosef-Haim Ohana, Alon Ohel. Second row, from left: Eitan Mor, Segev Kalfon, Nimrod Cohen, Maxim Herkin, Eitan Horn, Evyatar David, Guy Gilboa-Dalal, Bipin Joshi. Third row, from left: Dror Or, Tamir Adar, Matan Zangauker, Bar Kupershtein, David Cunio, Ariel Cunio, Tamir Nimrodi, Omri Miran. Fourth row, from left: Manny Godard, Sgt. First Class Ran Gvili, Sahar Baruch, Uriel Baruch, Sonthaya Oakkharasri, Ronen Engel, Muhammad Alatrash, Guy Illouz. Fifth row, from left: Joshua Mollel, Sgt. Itay Chen, Col. Asaf Hamami, Tal Chaimi, Aryeh Zalmanovich, Inbar Heiman, Sgt. Oz Daniel, Lt. Hadar Goldin. Bottom row, from left: Yossi Sharabi, Sudthisak Rinthalak, Maj. Lior Rudaeff, Amiram Cooper, Cpt. Daniel Perez, Cpt. Omer Neutra, Eliyahu Margalit, Eitan Levy. (Combo photo by Times of Israel; pictures: Courtesy)

How can anyone believe a single word uttered by the Qatari sheiks or the Hamas butchers?

Is President Trump leaning only on the Jews, getting PM Netanyahu to agree to a (temporary?) cessation of fire and to

a pull-back line in the sand in Gaza? Why not lean and lean hard on the aggressor— Hamas?

Why should Hamas agree to anything? Their barbarism has unleashed enormous global support for a permanent and very violent Intifada. Hamas has just recently claimed that they have organized the worldwide protests against Israel and for "Palestine" which is the code word for "Destroy Israel, Kill Jews." This is the wind beneath Hamas's sails: World wide approval for 10/7. Worldwide support for the most savage butchery in the name of "freedom."

Okay. Why not hold Hamas responsible for each and every Jew who is murdered, wounded, boycotted or subjected to terrifying pro-Hamas riots around the world? Why not take ten Arab prisoners off the bargaining table permanently, forever, for every murdered, wounded, set upon by a mad dog mob, forced into various ghettos, or traumatized in the UK, France, Italy, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Greece, and the United States? I could say more but I'll wait a bit.

And now, Hamas has the gall to say that they cannot find all the Israeli hostages, that they've distributed them all over Gaza and now they cannot remember where exactly they might be? Really? This is their only leverage—and they claim not to have it, not exactly, not yet.

Finally: Are the American and Arab-world negotiators really going to engage in a UN-style series of non-stop meetings that never go anywhere but lead to self-important resolutions and photo-ops? Will they keep talking for as long as it takes in order to give Hamas what Hamas wants?

Or, is Trump simply giving Hamas enough rope so that they can hang themselves? Nice thought.

I have many more questions. Please add your own here.

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