

# Hamas claims Bibas children's bodies will be among four returned this week

From the [Jewish Chronicle](#)

Hamas has reportedly claimed that the bodies of the Bibas children, Ariel and Kfir, will be among those returned to Israel this week.

Israeli and Arab media have been reporting that the remains of at least four Israelis who died in captivity will be released back to Israel on Thursday.



Ariel, left, and Kfir Bibas. Yosi Shnaider and Hostages Missing Families Forum

But [CNN](#) is now reporting that the terror group has identified the Bibas children as part of the group of deceased hostages who will be returned.

This report was seemingly confirmed when the families of six of the 14 remaining hostages listed for release in phase one of the ceasefire deal [announced](#) that they had been informed by

Israeli officials that their relatives would be coming home.

That leaves eight of the original list of 33 remaining – matching the number of captives Hamas has previously claimed are dead.

The two boys were the youngest Israelis abducted by Hamas during the October 7 terror attacks, with Kfir just nine months old and Ariel aged four at the time.

They were taken along with their parents, Yarden and Shiri, from their home in Nir Oz and the striking video of Shiri clutching her children to her as they are dragged away has become one of the most harrowing and enduring images of the atrocities.

*It was Palestinian civilians who kidnapped the Bibas family.*

*Not the Hamas militants who stormed Israel. But the scavengers and looters who came to celebrate the bloodshed.*

*They saw a helpless mother with her two babies and kidnapped them as trophies.*

*Let that sink in. [pic.twitter.com/k4toLpPGNS](https://pic.twitter.com/k4toLpPGNS)*

*– The Persian Jewess (@persianjewess) [February 18, 2025](#)*

Concern is also mounting for Shiri's wellbeing as she remains in Gaza and is also part among the group of eight who have not been named for release this weekend.

Should the group's claims transpire to be true, it could also mark an inflection point in the ongoing ceasefire negotiations.

Some in Israel have argued that any harm to the Bibas children would constitute the crossing of a "red line" and should prompt the resumption of fighting in Gaza in order to completely

dismantle Hamas.

...it should be noted that Hamas has previously claimed that hostages have been killed only to release them alive at a later date.

That being said, under international humanitarian rules, the Bibas children should have been among the first hostages released as part of the ceasefire's first phase if they are still alive.

Israeli officials have said they will not announce which hostages have been killed until the bodies have been returned and hostage families informed following a formal identification process.

*This is very sad news; I'm now frightened to hear how they died. Was it an unintentional death in the heat of battle? Or some action or neglect on the part of their Hamas terror camp guards?*