

*CBS Mornings*

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7:04:25 a.m.

3 minutes and 24 seconds [1:40 for Israelis, 1:41 for Hamas, 0:03 dead air]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; All Living Hostages Released from Hamas Captivity]

TONY DOKOUPIL: We're going to begin with Debora Patta in Tel Aviv in Hostage Square where all of the emotion really roared to the surface this morning when they were freed. Deborah, good morning.

DEBORA PATTA: A very good morning, Tony. Well, people here cannot say it enough. The 20 living hostages are home. They were released by Hamas from two separate locations and after being handed over by the Red Cross to the Israeli military, inside Gaza, they were taken to an army base and reunited with their families. Finally back on safe ground, here you see them after they were brought to a hospital waving flags, overjoyed. For the families that never gave up, today is filled with firsts. The first longed for reunion. The first screams of joy. As the hostages were driven into Israel, people lined the streets to welcome them. And here in Hostage Square, jubilation. In Gaza, Palestinians also watched the Red Cross leave with the captives whose release means they, too, can begin to imagine a life without war. 250 Palestinian prisoners serving life sentences and around 1,900 detainees arrested since October 2023 have also been set free. This woman is expecting the release of her brother. "I feel a mix of happiness and sadness, she said, he is coming home, but others have died." His little daughter is anxious. "I'm waiting for my dad," she exclaimed. This mother is hoping her son is among those freed. "He is the light of my life," she said. The ceasefire deal is a lifeline for Gaza. Desperately needed aid can finally flow into the territory to help ease the dire humanitarian crisis. Days on from the start of the ceasefire, look at these scenes. Gazans deprived of basic necessities for so long, they are battling for every scrap. Buried beneath the rubble, are countless stories of loss and pain. Each one personal. Together, according to Gaza health officials, they make up over 170,000 injuries and more than 67,000 deaths. And in Israel, there is sadly also another first, the first day of mourning for families whose loved ones were killed in Hamas captivity. We understand four of the 28 hostages killed, those bodies will be handed over today, so that they can be laid to rest, Tony.

DOKOUPIL: Debora, thank you very much.