

Hamas says committed to Gaza ceasefire deal; awaits list of prisoners to be released by Israel



A member of the Hamas security forces stands guard in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip on January 19, 2025. (Photo: AFP)

Gaza City, January 19 (RHC)-- Hamas has pledged its commitment to the ceasefire agreement, which officially began on Sunday, to see the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners who have arbitrarily been detained in the Israeli regime's prisons.

The long-awaited ceasefire agreement, which was first announced on Wednesday, went into effect on Sunday after a nearly three-hour delay during which Israel's military forces killed at least 19 Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The first phase of the ceasefire calls for Hamas to release 33 captives over six weeks. It has released the names of three female Israeli captives set to be released today.

In a Sunday statement, the resistance group reaffirmed its "commitment to implementing the terms of the agreement." It said the ceasefire is "the fruit of the steadfastness and patience of our great people and the legendary steadfastness of our valiant resistance in the face of the Zionist machine of terrorism and killing."

"The whole world today must stand in reverence for the legendary steadfastness of our people in Gaza, and in appreciation of their patience and sacrifices over the course of 471 days."

Hamas said it is awaiting a list of 90 Palestinian prisoners, including women and children, to be released by Tel Aviv on the first day of the ceasefire. It also said that Gaza officials "are monitoring the operations of bringing in aid and providing relief to our people with everything necessary."

The ceasefire marks a critical moment for aid delivery into the territory. Hundreds of trucks have already lined up at the Rafah border crossing, which has been closed since May.

Rights groups say the ceasefire agreement is a relief, but it is only the beginning of addressing the immense humanitarian, psychological, and medical needs in Gaza.

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