

27 Nov 2023

News: Bloomberg

Israel And Hamas Look to Extend Truce After More Hostages Are Freed

Israel and Hamas signaled that a temporary cease-fire in Gaza could be extended beyond Monday to allow for the release of more hostages and prisoners.

Israel and Hamas signaled that a temporary cease-fire in Gaza could be extended beyond Monday to allow for the release of more hostages and prisoners.

US President Joe Biden backed prolonging the war pause, saying it's allowing for the delivery of "critically needed" aid to Gaza and the recovery of hostages, after another 17 were released by Hamas on Sunday. They included a four-year-old girl, a US-Israeli dual national whose parents were killed by Hamas militants in their Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

A four-day pause brokered by Qatar, which began Friday, provides for Hamas to release 50 hostages in exchange for 150 Israeli-held prisoners and for Israel to hold its fire for each day that Hamas frees 10 more captives. Hamas has handed over 58 hostages through Sunday, including non-Israelis. Hamas is slated to free another 11 Israelis on Monday to fulfill the fourday agreement.

"This deal is structured so that it can be extended to keep building on these results," Biden told reporters. "That's my goal."

Hamas released a statement on Telegram late Sunday saying it seeks to "extend the truce after the end of the four-day period." Israel Defense Forces spokesman Daniel Hagari said the military is preparing for the next stage of fighting, but hopes "we can bring home as many hostages as possible before that happens."

Israel's war cabinet is meeting Sunday to discuss a possible extension of the cease-fire. Israel's military is looking to conduct operations inside Gaza for up to a year and the plans would likely involve setting up new security arrangements for the area's future governance, the Times of London reported a senior officer as saying. It did not name the official.

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Global Views

27 Nov 2023

News: Bloomberg

Biden and other officials said they hoped to extend the pause in fighting, in which about 15,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. Hamas, which the US and the European Union consider a terrorist group, killed about 1,200 people and took some 240 others hostage in its attack.

The administration remains focused on some 10 hostages with US citizenship or permanent residence still held in Gaza, and the president received an update Sunday morning on their possible status, a senior administration official said. A lack of information has made that task difficult, the official said.

The humanitarian pause in Gaza has "largely held" since going into effect Friday, allowing the United Nations to boost the delivery of crucial aid into and across Gaza, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in an update.

Israel said Sunday that 200 aid trucks entered Gaza, 42 of them with material for shelters. The military said a total of 2,000 aid trucks have been allowed into the strip since the war began.

Even so, the UN agency said many people still have no food or cooking fuel and that bakeries aren't operating, raising concerns about nutrition, especially in northern Gaza, the focus of Israel's ground offensive. It also reported that Israeli forces had arrested Palestinians traveling along the Israeli-designated safe "corridor" from the territory's north to south.

Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, during which they agreed to continue working on securing the release of all hostages. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected to visit Israel this week, his fourth visit since Oct. 7, Israeli media reported.

Source: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-11-26/israel-hamas-prepare-formore-hostage-releases-as-truce-holds

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News: Bloomberg

Bond Market's Dramatic Recovery Seen as Prelude to Broader Gains

The world's biggest bond market has clawed its way back after spending chunks of 2023 underwater. Now many US debt watchers see the pathway clearing for a real revival.

The world's biggest bond market has clawed its way back after spending chunks of 2023 underwater. Now many US debt watchers see the pathway clearing for a real revival.

The Bloomberg US Treasury Index shifted earlier this month to a positive return for the year as signs of slowing inflation and measured jobs growth unleashed a rally that sent benchmark yields tumbling from their highest in more than a decade. There have been some reversals along the way, including a mild climb in yields at the end of the holiday-shortened week, but the index is still about where it was at the start of the year and the overarching tone is constructive.

Most Wall Street strategists are predicting that the trend of lower yields will persist and set the stage for broad-based gains in 2024, with longer-term rates moving down more gradually given the barrage of debt issuance needed to fund an out-sized US deficit. Of course, many of these same market experts were forecasting a big year for bonds in 2023, which so far hasn't materialized. But there are several supporting factors to help them make their case this time.

Inflation continues to ebb, the US labor market is gradually cooling and the once relentlessly bearish commodity trading advisers community, a group that won big over the past year betting on higher yields is slowly exiting from bearish wagers. All this is amid growing investor sentiment that the Federal Reserve's most aggressive hiking cycle in decades is over, with the US central bank's flip to cutting rates expected by some as soon as the first half of 2024.

"I don't think the Fed is going to be fast to pivot" but that will be "the direction of travel," said Ashish Shah, chief investment officer of public investing at Goldman Sachs Asset Management. "That's because you are seeing inflation coming down as well as a deceleration of growth." Next year "is going to be the year of bonds, with them performing well. You'll also see a steepening of the yield curve because there is a lot of borrowing that is going to take place."

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Global Views

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There are several Fed speakers scheduled for the coming week, including Fed Chair Jerome Powell. Officials may signal that additional tightening remains an option after the recent dropin rates and rally in risk assets eased financial conditions somewhat working against the central bank's efforts to tamp down demand.

There isn't much top-tier economic data on the docket, though traders will get a key reading on price pressures Thursday with the government's release of personal-consumption expenditures data for October. The data, which is the Fed's preferred inflation measure is forecast to show a step down in the pace of price growth. Looming the following week is the monthly jobs report for November. Traders will be watching this closely, especially after October job growth slowed by more than expected and helped ignite the current rally in rates.

Source: <u>https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-11-26/us-treasury-market-s-</u> dramatic-recovery-sets-stage-for-a-broader-revival

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China Industrial Profit Growth Eases in October Amid Deflation Pressures

China's industrial profit growth ease in October as deflationary pressures persisted, suggesting the economic recovery remains fragile in the final stretch of 2023.

Profits at China's industrial companies rose at a much slower pace in October than the prior month as deflationary pressures persisted, suggesting the economic recovery remains fragile in the final stretch of 2023.

Industrial profits increased 2.7% from a year ago, according to data published by the National Bureau of Statistics on Monday. The pace eased significantly from September's 11.9% gain and August's 17.2% jump. For the first 10 months of 2023, profits fell 7.8% from the same period a year earlier, moderating slightly from the 9% fall through the first nine months.

Companies in China have finally started to see improving profits as the government stepped up economic stimulus, while a destocking cycle at firms is also likely nearing an end. But there are still lingering weaknesses within the world's second-largest economy that are weighing on activity.

Manufacturing activity contracted last month and the years-long property slump remains a drag. And while factory-gate deflation had been easing in recent months, prices still dropped 2.6% last month from a year ago.

Other indicators showed a mixed performance for China's economy in October. While consumer spending picked up, those figures were aided by a favourable comparison to lockdown-hit 2022. A deepening contraction in property investment has fueled expectations the government will have to roll out more stimulus.

Source: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-11-27/china-industrial-profitgrowth-eases-amid-deflation-pressures

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