

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025

**Remarks on the Release of Hostages From Hamas Captivity in Gaza Prior to
Departure for National Harbor, Maryland**

February 22, 2025

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Ukraine, Mr. President——

Q. Mr. President, why did A.Q. Brown deserve to be fired, sir?

The President. So we had a lot of news over the last 24 hours. We had the hostages given back today. It's disgraceful what's going on there. They're not in great shape, but we've also seen them in worse shape. But the hostages—the six hostages were delivered by Hamas. What a terrible situation it is.

I'm going now to make a speech at CPAC, so I think we're going to include a lot of your subjects. And I know it's going to be covered by all of you. And so I'll see you at CPAC.

How are you?

Q. Mr. President, did you call General C.Q. Brown?

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:35 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House prior to boarding Marine One. In his remarks, he referred to Israeli hostages Omer Wenkert, Eliya Cohen, Omer Shem Tov, Tal Shoham, Hisham al-Sayed, and Avera Mengistu, who were released from Hamas captivity in Gaza, Palestinian Territories, into Red Cross custody on February 22. Reporters referred Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Charles Q. "C.Q." Brown, Jr., USAF, who was removed from his position on February 21. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on February 24.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Release of hostages from Hamas captivity in Gaza, remarks prior to departure for National Harbor, MD.

Locations: Washington, DC.

Names: Cohen, Eliya; Mengistu, Avera; Sayed, Hashem al-; Shoham, Tal; Tov, Omer Shem; Wenkert, Omer.

Subjects: Gaza, hostages held by Hamas; Hamas political-paramilitary organization.

DCPD Number: DCPD202500294.