

DAILY UPDATE: ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR

DAY 17 OF THE WAR

LAST UPDATE -23/10/2023, 12:00PM ISRAEL TIME

1. Statistics

- 1,400+ Israelis killed since Saturday morning, among them 308 fallen soldiers.
- 3,900+ Israelis wounded.
- 222 Confirmed kidnapped Israelis, among them 30 children under the age of 18. Even more missing.
- 6,000+ Rockets launched into Israel.
- 360,000+ Reservists drafted.

2. Talking Points

The double standards in the international community:

Protests against Israel around the western world.

Despite the calls to “Free Gaza” Israel withdrew from the Gaza strip voluntarily in 2005, since then the sovereign in the Gaza strip is Hamas, So the only liberation of Gaza should be from Hamas.

The media is using Hamas as a reliable source, indication of Irresponsible journalism

On Tuesday the 17/10 the terrorist organization Islamic Jihad launched tens of rockets towards Israel at 18:59. The rockets were fired from inside a densely populated civilian area, which happens to be near Al-Ahli Al-Mahdi hospital. Simultaneously, the Hamas terrorist organization published a statement blaming Israel for the bombing of said hospital and reporting over 500 casualties at the scene without providing any form of evidence. International media referred to Hamas’ statement and considered it as a reliable source. Without performing any independent research or awaiting an official response from Israel, many media outlets published this false information.

Five hours later the IDF published that after conducting a thorough investigation the bombing of the parking lot next to the hospital could not have been caused by the IDF and was in fact a result of a misfired rocket which was fired by the terrorist organization Islamic Jihad. The world has now seen how journalists spread fake news brought to them by a terrorist group.

Hamas prioritizes terror more over its civilians:

Since the beginning of the war the international community is blaming Israel for stopping the aid brought into Gaza from Israel, ignoring the fact that Hamas is the sovereign in the Gaza strip, and that Israel has no responsibility over the Gazan civilians. Hamas, as sovereign in the Gaza strip, is not providing its civilians with essential and basic necessities like water, food, and fuel. Instead, Hamas uses their resources for terror causes. Hamas wants to harm and terrorize Israeli civilians more than it wants its civilians to be safe.

Ask yourself, how come Gaza is running out of everything but rockets?

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Israeli Homefront

- This is the worst massacre of Israeli civilians in Israel's history. The last time this many Jewish civilians were murdered in a single day was by the Nazis during the Holocaust.
- This is barbarism the likes of which the world hasn't seen since the worst days of ISIS.

The Situation in the Gaza Strip

- Since the beginning of the war, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad have had 550 failed launches, which have landed in the Gaza Strip.
- The UN has been made aware of the inhumane actions of Hamas, and the fact that Hamas, the sovereign in Gaza has no interest in caring for their civilians. Hamas uses humanitarian aid that is supposed to go to civilians in Gaza for its own terrorist purposes. One example is that on Monday the 16th of October, Hamas stole fuel from the UN that was meant for civilians in Gaza. By this, Hamas stole what would be equivalent to 6 days of running water.
- Water issue: approximately 90% of the water inside the Gaza Strip, is provided from within Gaza, and only approximately 10% of the water is provided by Israel. With this knowledge, we can understand that Israel didn't leave Gaza without running water.
- Under international law, if a civilian structure is used for military purposes then it becomes a legitimate military target.
- Before Hamas' attack, Israel operated humanitarian aid crossings with Gaza where food, supplies, civilians, and international aid passed through daily.
- The Al-Ahli Gaza hospital:

Here are the main points of our examination process:

1) First, the IDF confirmed that there was no IDF fire – by land, sea or air – that hit the hospital.

2) Second, the IDF's radar systems tracked rockets fired by terrorists from within Gaza at the time of the explosion. The trajectory analysis from the barrage of rockets, confirms that the rockets were fired in close proximity to the hospital.

In addition, there are two independent videos which show the failure of the rocket launch and the continuation of the rocket flight towards the ground, within the Gaza Strip – falling in the hospital compound.

3) Third, the IDF has released intelligence backed information of communication between terrorists talking about the rocket misfiring. The terrorists realized that a rocket had misfired and made specific reference to the hospital.

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IDF Goals and Actions

- The IDF is ready to act on all fronts against any threat – The IDF remains on high alert for further provocations on our northern border and in Judea and Samaria.
- The IDF has continuously warned civilians who live in Gaza to evacuate south of Wadi Gaza for their protection.
- The dismantling of Hamas' military and administrative capabilities should not only be the goal of the IDF and Israel but of the whole world. The IDF is not only fighting for Israel's right to exist but also ensuring Hamas' inability to expand to the rest of the western world.

Hamas' Goals and Actions

- Hamas is a terrorist organization driven by radical hatred toward the Jewish people. Their ultimate goal is to annihilate Israel and kill Israeli civilians, as stated in the Hamas charter.
- Hamas deliberately conceals its military operations and assets inside civilian areas including homes, mosques, and hospitals in an attempt to avoid being attacked, intentionally using Gazan civilians as human shields.
- Hamas terrorists attacked the humanitarian aid crossings, killed or captured everyone inside, destroyed equipment, and published videos of their actions. The crossings cannot operate at this time due to these events.
- Israel has no legal or moral obligation to supply electricity or other resources to a hostile territory that initiated a savage war. Hamas, as the leadership in the Gaza Strip, is responsible for taking care of the needs of Gazan civilians.
- Psychological terrorism – Hamas is desperately trying to restore its image as a “humanitarian” organization, as seen in a video released on 16/10/2023 showing the terrorists providing medical treatment to a wounded hostage. However, Hamas has failed to explain why there are 222 hostages still being held within the Gaza Strip, how a 21-year-old attending a festival ended up in Gaza, and why there are thousands of Israeli civilians killed or injured. These terror tactics are the same atrocities the world saw from ISIS.

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3. Operational Updates

Gaza and Southern Israel:

- IDF called on residents of Gaza City to evacuate south of Wadi Gaza and opened multiple corridors for the Gazan civilians to go south both on 14.10 and 15.10.
- More than 700,000 Gazan civilians have left the area so far.
- Hamas is trying to prevent civilians from evacuating by obstructing the safe passage of residents of the Gaza Strip to the south through roadblocks, and pressuring Gazan civilians to stay in their homes.
- The IDF is preparing for the next stages of its operational offensive plans.

Northern border:

- The IDF is ready to act on all fronts against any threat – The IDF remains on high alert for further provocations on our northern border.
- In addition to the 30,000 residents of the northern border cities that have been evacuated, 22,000 residents of Kiryat Shmona were also evacuated in order to preserve operational flexibility when contending with the threat from Hezbollah.
- Rocket attacks and attempted infiltrations from southern Lebanon continue. IDF forces responded to the sources of fire as well as other Hezbollah military sites.
- The IDF holds Lebanon responsible for all activity emanating from its borders.

International:

- US cargo planes and vessels with advanced armaments arrived in Israel so the IDF is fully equipped for any scenario.
- The U.S. support of Israel at this time is a sign of our strong partnership and mutual values. The IDF is prepared to take necessary actions to defend Israeli civilians, and values the strong relationship and cooperation with the United States Armed Forces.

4. Background Information

- On Saturday, Oct. 7, which coincided with a Jewish holiday marking the end of the High Holiday season, the terrorist organization Hamas carried out a series of unprovoked, murderous, barbaric attacks. Hamas invaded Israel, rampaged Israeli towns near the border, and slaughtered and abducted Israeli civilians. Among the murdered Israelis were infants, the elderly, men, women, and children. Simultaneously, Hamas fired thousands of rockets from Gaza at Israeli civilian territory across the entire country.
- 30+ Communities near the Gaza Strip were attacked by thousands of Hamas terrorists, who massacred and abducted many of the civilians in these communities.