

DAILY UPDATE:

ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR

DAY 72 OF THE WAR

LAST UPDATE -17/12/2023, 21:00PM ISRAEL TIME

SINWAR'S SUBTERRANEAN TUNNEL SYSTEM: IDF EXPOSES THE BIGGEST HAMAS TUNNEL FOUND IN GAZA, 400 METERS FROM THE EREZ HUMANITARIAN CROSSING

Statistics

- 1,200+ Israelis killed since the morning of October 7th.
- **454 fallen soldiers.**
- **122 IDF soldiers have been killed in action in the ground operation.**
- 5,400+ Israelis wounded since the morning of October 7th.
- **129 confirmed hostages.**
- **4 confirmed missing persons.**
- 11,000+ Rockets launched into Israel.
- 86 Israeli hostages released.
- 24 foreign national hostages released.
- **8 bodies of hostages who were murdered while in captivity, have been returned to Israel.**

Operational Updates

Gaza and Southern Israel:

- **The IDF exposed Hamas subterranean tunnel system of attack tunnels built in the immediate vicinity of the Erez crossing. This massive tunnel system, splits into branches of tunnels, spans well over four kilometers (2.5 miles) and reaches only 400 meters (1,310 feet) from the Erez crossing. This subterranean tunnel system was a project led by Muhammad Sinwar, the brother of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.**
- **To date, the IDF has exposed hundreds of terror tunnel shafts throughout the Gaza Strip. Many are built from reinforced concrete and are equipped with electricity, ventilation, sewage, communication networks and rails, like the one we are exposing. Over the past 70 days, the IDF has exposed multiple examples where these tunnels were built under hospitals, schools, kindergartens and other sensitive sites. The IDF continues to use advanced operational, intelligence and technological means to eliminate Hamas' network of terror tunnels across the Gaza Strip.**
- **The ground forces, using operational field intelligence, have provided a lot of information about Hamas' terror tunnels project, and have helped to advance both our knowledge and our maps of the tunnels. From the beginning of the war till now, the IDF has been operating to locate and destroy dozens of attack tunnel routes, as part of the systematic dismantling of Hamas infrastructure.**
- **Like other tunnels throughout Gaza, the tunnel network has multiple branches, electricity and sewage facilities installed, and blast doors to block access. The tunnel displays other construction characteristics, such as extensive concrete arches and multiple access shafts.**
- **The complex tunnel network was constructed by a team of dozens of specifically trained operatives from southern Gaza. The team leveraged dedicated digging equipment that was smuggled into Gaza to excavate the tunnel. The tunnel reaches as deep as 50 meters underground, is over four kilometers long, and is at points wide enough for a large vehicle to drive through.**
- **Over the past few weeks, IDF ground forces and combat engineering forces from the Gaza Division, including soldiers from the Yahalom Unit have been conducting an extensive operation against Hamas' terror tunnels. The unit leverages advanced technological capabilities to expose, assess, secure and dismantle Hamas terrorist tunnels.**
- **As the ground operation continues, IDF soldiers have exposed 800 and destroyed approximately 500 terror tunnel shafts. The Yahalom special forces unit of the Combat Engineering Corps has played a significant role in uncovering and destroying these shafts using various methods.**
- **The IDF is investigating the accuracy of information regarding the Bibas family. The Bibas family was alive when taken hostage by Hamas terrorists on October 7th. Israel and the IDF hold Hamas responsible for the security of all the hostages.**

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Northern border:

- Hezbollah has tried to deflect Israel's attention on behalf of Hamas by sending hundreds of rockets, anti-tank missiles and mortar shells from southern Lebanon.
- There have been multiple infiltration attempts along the border fence and in the air (UAVs), these actions are a breach of the UNSCR 1701 in southern Lebanon and along the Blue Line.
- The IDF has deployed a large number of troops along the northern border and is heavily prepared to act against all terror activities on the northern front.
- The IDF holds Lebanon and Syria responsible for all activity emanating from their borders.

International:

- Due to the current situation, The National Security Council has issued travel warnings to 80 global destinations for Israelis around the world.
- Two missiles were fired by the Iranian-backed Houthis at non-Israeli chartered ships. Attacks by the Iranian-backed Houthis on global shipping are a global threat to freedom of navigation at sea.
- 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.
- **According to Israel's Ministry Of Defense, over 200 U.S. military equipment cargo planes have arrived in Israel so far.**

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.
- 250K+ Israeli civilians have been evacuated from their homes in both Southern and Northern Israel due to the areas being declared as closed military zones after the brutal attacks of Hamas and the ongoing provocations occurring on Israel's border with Lebanon. This decision has been made to ensure the safety of Israeli civilians from the ongoing combat activities occurring in both areas.

Humanitarian Aid:

- The IDF is continuing with the temporary evacuation efforts of civilians in Gaza to safer areas away from conflict zones and has provided a map detailing evacuation zones, alongside other measures such as flyers, phone calls, text messages, and pre-recorded voice messages for their safety as military operations resume.
- **More than 4300 trucks containing 76,00+ tons of aid, as well as fuel and gas tankers have entered the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the war.**
- **More than 39,000 tons of food have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **12,000+ tons of water have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **7,000+ tons of medical supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **7,000+ tons of temporary shelter supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **6,000+ tons of mixed aid have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- Under the coordination of Israel, the USA, Egypt, and the UN, international humanitarian aid is entering into the Gaza Strip through the Rafah Crossing in Egypt.

IDF Goals and Actions

- The IDF is acting against any threats posed on all fronts and is prepared to intensify operations by air, land, and sea to eliminate the threat to Israeli civilians and to ensure regional stability.
- The dismantling of Hamas' military and administrative capabilities should not only be the goal of the IDF and Israel but of the whole world.
- Returning all the hostages home is a core priority for the IDF.
- 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.

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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.
- 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.
- Hamas is desperately trying to restore its image as a “humanitarian” organization by publishing videos of hostages seemingly caring for them. However, Hamas has failed to explain why there are 100+ hostages still being held within the Gaza Strip. This warfare tactic involves using manipulation, propaganda, and intimidation to instill fear, doubt, or helplessness in individuals or groups by controlling or influencing their minds. This is just one example of how Hamas uses psychological terrorism against Israel. These terror tactics are the same the world saw from ISIS.

Hamas' actions against Gazan civilians

- On November 13th, the IDF exposed Hamas' Exploitation of Rantisi Children's hospital for military purposes which is a core Hamas tactic. Weapons discovered in hospital basement include suicide-bomb vests, grenades, AK-47 assault rifles, explosive devices and RPGs.
- The IDF took operational control of the Gaza harbor, which was controlled by the Hamas terrorist organization and used as a training facility for their naval commando forces for planning and executing naval terror attacks under the guise of a civilian harbor, all the while using civilian and Gaza harbor police vessels.
- The IDF has exposed that Hamas steals fuel from civilian infrastructures such as the fuel supply of the Shifa hospital, located in Gaza City, for their own nefarious terror purposes. Based off of satellite images, proving thousands of liters of fuel is available within in the Gaza Strip, it is now understood that there is no lack of fuel, rather the terrorist organization Hamas prioritizes the use of fuel for terror acts against Israel.
- Since the beginning of the war, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad have had 1000+ failed rocket launches, which have landed in the Gaza Strip causing severe damage to infrastructure and harming civilians.
- 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 providing for or protecting 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. Rather Hamas fails to supply their 90% of water, leaving all Gazan civilians to depend on Israel's 10%.
- Under international law, if a civilian structure is used for military purposes then it becomes a legitimate military target. Hamas uses their civilians as human shields by embedding themselves within densely populated areas and concealing their military operations and infrastructure within residential buildings, schools, hospitals and mosques.
- Before Hamas' attack, Israel operated humanitarian aid crossings with Gaza where food, supplies, civilians, and international aid passed through daily. Hamas terrorists attacked the humanitarian aid crossings, killed or captured everyone inside, destroyed equipment, and published videos of their actions. Due to these events, the crossings are inadequate for operational use.

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

Without performing any independent research or awaiting an official response from Israel, many media outlets published false information regarding the failed rocket launch of the terrorist organization Islamic Jihad. 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. International media referred to Hamas' statement and considered it a reliable source. The world has now seen how journalists spread fake news brought to them by a terrorist group.

The rise in anti-semitism worldwide

Antisemitism is a deeply concerning and complex issue. It manifests in various forms, from hate speech and discrimination to violent acts targeting Jewish individuals, institutions, and communities. The surge in antisemitism can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, heightened tensions during and after conflicts can lead to a tendency to generalize blame toward an entire community, such as the Jewish population. Moreover, the dissemination of misinformation and biased narratives through various media channels can exacerbate the situation by presenting partial or distorted portrayals of the conflict, contributing to the reinforcement of negative stereotypes and prejudices. This confluence of heightened emotions, misinterpretation, and unjust attributions often precipitates a rise in anti-semitic sentiments.

Summary of the operational pause

The operational pause which lasted 7 days and began on November 24th, ended in the morning of December 1st at 5:42 AM, when Hamas violated the terms of the framework and decided to fire a barrage of 200+ rockets towards Israeli territory. The IDF has resumed military operations within the Gaza Strip in order to continue in their efforts to dismantle Hamas, all its terror capabilities and infrastructure and bring home the 137 hostages who are still being held within the Gaza Strip. Throughout the operational pause 110 hostages were released from Hamas' captivity.

Hamas clearly used the time during the operational pause to prepare rocket fire for Friday morning while also demanding the IDF don't fly above Gaza so they can move troops before resuming military operations.

Throughout the last week the world has been exposed to Hamas' ludicrous behavior and manipulative abilities once again through their statement insinuating the death of the Bibas family while also admitting to not knowing their whereabouts, suggesting that the hostages have been spread out amongst different factions within the Strip, the separation of families including mothers and their children throughout the hostage release and the inability of Hamas to allow the Red Cross to visit and check on the welfare of the remaining hostages.

Background Information

- On October 7th, 2023, which coincided with a Jewish holiday marking the end of the High Holiday season, thousands of armed Hamas terrorists invaded Israel through the land, the air and the sea. Hamas terrorists alongside Gazan civilians tore down large parts of the Gaza security fence using tractors, RPGs and explosives which enabled them to infiltrate southern Israel. Simultaneously, Hamas fired thousands of rockets from Gaza towards Israeli civilian territory across the entire country.
- After invading into Israeli territory, the Hamas terrorists split up and made their way to a number of Israeli communities and IDF bases surrounding the Gaza Strip. They invaded the towns, shooting everything in sight. They broke into civilian homes and carried out a series of unprovoked, murderous, barbaric attacks. Over 1,200 civilians were murdered, and over 200 were abducted and are still to this day being held hostage in the Gaza Strip. Hamas terrorists briefly took control of many Israeli communities located in the south, terrorizing and brutalizing their residents.
- Hundreds of IDF soldiers were killed and among the murdered Israelis were infants, the elderly, men, women, and children.
- Additional terrorists drove on to the Nova Music Festival, which took place in an open area in the south of Israel. Partygoers were woken up to the sound of sirens and attempted to evacuate due to the threat of rockets. Many of them did not reach safety. The terrorists fired indiscriminately at the thousands of civilians who came from all over the world to celebrate peace through music. The Hamas terrorists massacred hundreds, raped young women, brutalized bodies, and abducted many. Hundreds of bodies were later found in the area of the festival, most of them belonging to innocent youth.
- Many innocent lives were lost not only during the initial attacks but also during the prolonged. The IDF, community security forces and armed individuals fought heroically to regain control of the southern communities and military bases surrounding the Gaza Strip in a strong effort to clear them from terrorists and rescue as many innocent civilians as possible. When the forces were able to regain control of the southern communities, they were faced with horrific sights of Hamas' pure violence that were left behind.
- October 7th 2023, will forever be remembered as a dark day in Israel's history and in humanity's history. A reminder that there are humans capable of utterly inhumane things.