

DAILY UPDATE:

ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR

DAY 108 OF THE WAR

LAST UPDATE -22/01/2024, 07:00PM ISRAEL TIME

IDF OPERATIONS IN THE GAZA STRIP AGAINST TERRORIST OPERATIVES AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARE CONTINUING

Statistics

- 1,200+ Israelis killed since the morning of October 7th.
- **532 fallen soldiers.**
- **195 IDF soldiers have been killed in action in the ground operation.**
- **10 IDF soldiers killed by Hezbollah terrorism.**
- 5,400+ Israelis wounded since the morning of October 7th.
- 136 confirmed hostages.
- **12,000+ Rockets launched into Israel.**
- 121 Israeli hostages released.
- 24 foreign national hostages released.
- 1500+ tunnel shafts and underground passages uncovered since the beginning of the war (finding more every day).

Operational Updates

Gaza and Southern Israel:

- In the central Gaza Strip, a terrorist cell that was advancing toward forces in the area was killed. A number of terrorists who attempted to ambush IDF troops were also identified and struck by an aircraft in a joint ground and aerial operation.
- In the northern Gaza Strip, IDF troops identified an armed terrorist cell. The troops responded with fire and killed one of the terrorists. The troops then directed an aircraft that struck and killed the remaining terrorists.
- Yesterday, soldiers of the Yiftach Brigade operated in the Al-Maghazi area against Hamas terrorist infrastructure located near and inside civilian buildings in the area. Armored Corps and Combat Engineering forces also operated in a Hamas command and control center where a weapons production site was located. A loaded rocket launcher was located in a nearby olive grove. The factories, the weapons and the rocket launcher were destroyed by the IDF. During the operations, an RPG was fired toward an IDF tank. The forces identified the terrorist cell that carried out the shooting and returned fire. Simultaneously, the Fire Control Center guided an aircraft to target and eliminate a number of the terrorists. After IDF soldiers identified an additional terrorist armed with an RPG who fled the area, the soldiers engaged the terrorist in close-quarters combat and eliminated him.
- Earlier this week, soldiers of the 98th Division operated in an underground tunnel in Khan Yunis where hostages were being held. The length of the tunnel was about 830 meters and it was about 20 meters deep. The entrance to the tunnel was booby-trapped, and inside it there were many obstacles, explosives, sliding doors and blast doors. While the soldiers were advancing through the tunnel, they encountered a number of terrorists. The soldiers fought against them and eliminated them. When the soldiers reached the tunnel, the hostages were already gone, as they were moved to another location. As part of the examination of the tunnel, a central chamber where hostages were held and five barred prison cells were discovered. In addition, the soldiers located findings that indicated that hostages had been held there, intelligence and weapons belonging to the Hamas terrorist organization. According to testimonies, there were about 20 hostages in the tunnel at different times. Some were released and some are still being held in Gaza. The tunnel was located in the heart of a civilian area in Khan Yunis, and the entrance to it was located in the residence of a Hamas terrorist. According to intelligence estimates, millions of shekels were invested in the construction of the tunnel. This tunnel was part of a branching underground network, dug by the Hamas terrorist organization, under Khan Yunis. At the end of the examination, the tunnel was destroyed.

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Northern border:

- Earlier today, IAF fighter jets struck a military structure in Maroun El Ras in southern Lebanon. Several Hezbollah terrorists were located inside the structure. Following the strike on the structure, numerous secondary explosions were identified, indicating the presence of weapons inside the structure.
- Three Hezbollah observation posts and a military compound were struck in the areas of Marwahin, Chihine, Taybeh, and Tayr Harfa in southern Lebanon. IDF troops also struck in Kfarkela and Blida in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah's military activity south of the Litani River in Lebanon, including the use and storage of armaments, is a clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

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:

- 260 trucks carrying humanitarian aid were transferred to the Gaza Strip yesterday (Jan. 21). This marks the highest number of trucks since the start of the war. 121 trucks were inspected at Nitzana and transferred to Gaza via the Rafah Crossing, and 139 trucks were inspected and transferred via Kerem Shalom.
- Since the beginning of the war, 12,000 trucks with 1,052 tons of medical equipment have entered Gaza, including hundreds of thousands vaccines against various diseases. In addition, eight field hospitals such as The Emirati Field Hospital, The Jordanian Field Hospital, The European Hospital, etc., and two floating hospitals, the Italian and French ships, have been opened and are operating.
- Civilian aerial evacuations began in the beginning of November and are coordinated with the countries who want to evacuate patients. The patients are confirmed by the ISA and the evacuation is coordinated by COGAT and Egypt. So far, hundreds of patients have been evacuated to Egypt, Turkey and UAE.
- More than 9,923 trucks containing 182,670+ tons of aid, as well as fuel and gas tankers have entered the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the war.
- More than 117,350 tons of food have entered the Gaza Strip.
- 19,020+ tons of water have entered the Gaza Strip.
- 13,550+ tons of medical supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.
- 20,780+ tons of temporary shelter supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.
- 11,970+ tons of mixed aid have entered the Gaza Strip.

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.