

DAILY UPDATE:

ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR

DAY 111 OF THE WAR

LAST UPDATE -23/01/2024, 08:00PM ISRAEL TIME

THIS WEEK THE DEADLIEST COMBAT INCIDENT IN GAZA SO FAR RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF 24 IDF SOLDIERS IN ONE DAY

Statistics

- 1,200+ Israelis killed since the morning of October 7th.
- **556 fallen soldiers.**
- **219 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:

- **The soldiers of the Paratroopers Brigade combat team have expanded their combat operations and are now fighting in the Al Amal area of the city of Khan Yunis. The soldiers are operating in dense, urban areas and encountering and eliminating terrorists in close-quarters combat, conducting targeted raids on terrorist infrastructure, and locating and destroying weapons, mortars and rockets. During operations by the soldiers against Hamas military targets, the soldiers located dozens of AK-47s, grenades, mortar shells and explosives used to fire from drones. When the soldiers encountered three terrorists who opened fire toward them inside a structure, they returned fire with accurate shots at the terrorists. Two of the terrorist operatives were killed and the third was hit and ran inside a building. The soldiers used a drone to scan the building into which the terrorist fled, identified him opening fire toward the drone and then eliminated him. In addition, the brigade's sniper teams are deployed in the area and are using precise fire to eliminate dozens of armed terrorists who pose a threat to the soldiers. This is alongside the use of IDF observation capabilities and cooperation with IDF armored, combat engineering and air forces.**
- **Over the last week, the soldiers of the 646th Reserve Brigade, which operates under the 99th Division in the central Gaza Strip, along with special forces of the Yahalom Unit, located a tunnel that connects between the north and the south of the Strip. The tunnel is located one and a half kilometers from the border with Israel. The tunnel is approximately one kilometer in length and 20 meters in depth. The underground route was investigated and dismantled by the engineering battalion and in cooperation with the Yahalom Unit. During the operational activity in the area, the soldiers located anti-aircraft missiles, rocket launchers and equipment for the production and launch of rockets. In addition, dozens of warheads and electronic components for operating rockets were located.**
- **As part of the IDF's activity in the southern Gaza Strip, forces from the 261st Brigade operated to dismantle terrorist infrastructure. It appears that RPG missiles were fired toward the forces during the operation, and as a result of this firing and the simultaneous collapse of a nearby structure, 21 reserve soldiers were killed and others were injured. The families of the fallen soldiers have been notified, and the IDF will continue to support the families of the fallen soldiers and the wounded.**

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Northern border:

- **Earlier today (Thursday), two Hezbollah hostile aerial targets which crossed from Lebanon into Israeli territory fell adjacent to Kfar Blum. Furthermore, fighter jets struck a series of Hezbollah military targets in the areas of Tyre and Mghayre in Lebanon. Among the targets struck were military compounds and sites used by Hezbollah's Aerial Unit. Military airstrip and infrastructure used by the organization to direct terror attacks against Israeli civilians were located at one of the sites. Additionally, IDF artillery and mortars struck in several additional areas in southern Lebanon.**

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.
- Civilain 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.
- **115 trucks carrying humanitarian aid were transferred to the Gaza Strip yesterday (Jan. 24). 106 trucks were inspected at Nitzana and transferred to Gaza via the Rafah Crossing, and 9 trucks were inspected and transferred via Kerem Shalom. 22 trucks carried food.**
- **Yesterday, (Jan. 24) 4 tankers of cooking gas and 4 tankers of fuel designated for the operation of essential infrastructure in Gaza, have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **More than 123,650 tons of food have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **19,540+ tons of water have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **15,850+ tons of medical supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **21,380+ tons of temporary shelter supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **12,670+ 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.