

# DAILY UPDATE:

## ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR

### DAY 88 OF THE WAR

LAST UPDATE -02/01/2024, 04:00PM ISRAEL TIME

IDF CONTINUES TO OPERATE IN THE GAZA STRIP AND HAS SECURED HAMAS' INTELLIGENCE AND CONTROL CENTER IN GAZA CITY

#### Statistics

- 1,200+ Israelis killed since the morning of October 7th.
- **507 fallen soldiers.**
- **173 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.
- **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 past few days, during a targeted raid, the forces secured control of terror infrastructure embedded inside the residence of Hamas' Gaza Brigade Commander. The troops enabled the entrance of special forces who scanned the area. During close-quarters combat, the troops killed dozens of terrorist operatives. The soldiers also discovered and destroyed tunnel shafts, large quantities of weapons, and found intelligence material connecting the central Daraj Tuffah Mosque to the October 7th massacre.
- The 401st Brigade conducted a targeted raid on the central building of the Eastern Military Post in Gaza City. The Eastern Military Post is a strategic stronghold of Hamas in Gaza City, in which there were operational command and control rooms. This terrorist stronghold, which includes 37 buildings, is located in the heart of Gaza's civilian population, near hospitals, schools, and civilian homes. Additionally, the forces discovered an underground Hamas control bunker, from which the terrorist organization commanders managed the war in the Gaza Strip. The underground compound was 20 meters deep and included large operational rooms and hideouts for the Hamas' leaders. During the scans conducted in the area, the forces discovered many weapons and communication devices.
- In the Eastern Military Post, the 401st Brigade's Shaked Battalion discovered 5 central tunnel shafts dozens of meters deep. These shafts were interconnected and created a wide tunnel route and entrance to the underground control center compound. At one tunnel shaft, the Shaldag Unit forces conducted close-quarter combat underground, ultimately eliminating all enemy forces fighting. The 601st Battalion and the Yahalom Engineering Forces destroyed the entire tunnel route.

##### Northern border:

- IDF fighter jets struck terrorist infrastructure where Hezbollah terrorists operated in the area of Yaroun in Lebanon.
- Overnight, the IDF struck military infrastructure belonging to the Syrian Army in response to the launches yesterday (Monday) toward Israeli territory.
- The Hezbollah terrorist organization attempted to launch hostile aircraft from a civilian area in Maroun El Ras, adjacent to the border with Israel, earlier today. This is a further example of Hezbollah's use of civilian areas for its terrorist activity and its violations of UN Security Council Resolution 1701.
- 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.

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### 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:

- A total of 163 trucks carrying humanitarian aid, including food, water, medical supplies, and shelter equipment were inspected and transferred to the Gaza Strip yesterday (Jan. 1). 87 trucks inspected at Nitzana crossing and transferred to the Gaza Strip via the Rafah Crossing, and 76 trucks inspected and transferred to Gaza via Kerem Shalom.
- Yesterday, (Jan. 1) 4 tankers of cooking gas designated for the operation of essential infrastructure in Gaza, have entered the Gaza Strip.
- A field hospital in Rafah operated by the Red Crescent has begun treating patients. With a capacity of 50 beds and a personnel of 120, the hospital includes 6 intensive care units and 3 operating rooms.
- Additional field hospitals are in the process, expected to be operational in the coming days.
- Additional equipment and personnel for field hospitals have entered the Gaza Strip.
- The repair of the Bani Suhila waterline was coordinated.
- Equipment for 4 WFP warehouses has entered the Gaza Strip. These warehouses are expected to be set up in the coming days and will better the logistic capacity of the organizations receiving the humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip.
- Today, (Jan. 2) between 10:00 and 14:00, the IDF will pause operations in the Al- Baracha neighborhood in Dier Al Balah, central Gaza, in order to enable movement of humanitarian aid.
- **More than 6,200 trucks containing 113,000+ tons of aid, as well as fuel and gas tankers have entered the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the war.**
- **More than 64,470 tons of food have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **16,400+ tons of water have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **10,600+ tons of medical supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **12,940+ tons of temporary shelter supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.**
- **9,420+ 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.