

# DAILY UPDATE:

## ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR

DAY 125 OF THE WAR

LAST UPDATE -08/02/2024, 07:00PM ISRAEL TIME

THE IDF REVEALS A TUNNEL USED BY SENIOR OPERATIVES TO HOLD HOSTAGES IN KHAN YUNIS

### Statistics

- 1,200+ Israelis killed since the morning of October 7th.
- **564 fallen soldiers.**
- **227 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:

- **Soldiers of the Yahalom Unit along with another special forces unit carried out a targeted raid under the command of the 98th Brigade on an additional strategic underground tunnel over one kilometer in length in Khan Yunis. The tunnel was used to hide high-ranking members of the Hamas terrorist organization and to hold hostages. The forces fought in the tunnel against terrorists, breached metal doors and neutralized explosives. During searches in the tunnel, several rooms were discovered, including a barred cell where hostages were held, a bathroom, and a rest area used by terrorists holding the hostages. Additionally, intelligence materials and weapons belonging to the Hamas terrorist organization were found in the tunnel. This tunnel held approximately 12 hostages at different times; three of them have been returned to Israel, and the rest are still being held in Gaza. As is the practice of the Hamas terrorist organization, this tunnel was also built under the heart of a civilian area of Khan Yunis, and intelligence estimates suggest millions of shekels were invested in its construction. This strategic tunnel is part of an intricate and interconnected underground labyrinth, linked to another tunnel revealed a few weeks ago where additional hostages were held.**
- **IDF troops are continuing intensive operations in terrorist hubs in western Khan Yunis. Over the past day, IDF troops have apprehended dozens of individuals suspected of involvement in terrorist activity, including two terrorists who participated in the October 7th Massacre and an additional Nukhba terrorist. IDF troops killed two terrorists in close-quarters combat. Simultaneously, IDF troops identified and killed a terrorist positioned on the roof of a school using precise fire. During a targeted raid on terror infrastructure located in the residence of a terrorist, IDF troops located a RPG launcher, scuba suit and ammunition.**
- **During targeted raids carried out by the Egoz Unit in western Khan Yunis, IDF soldiers destroyed terrorist infrastructure and killed numerous terrorists in close-quarters combat. This week, the soldiers conducted scans in the area, during which they encountered a terrorist cell and eliminated it at close range. While continuing their scans in a house adjacent to where the battle took place, the troops found a submachine gun hidden inside a bedroom and a UN-marked vest, humanitarian aid, and canned food inside another room.**
- **IDF troops are continuing to operate in western Khan Yunis in order to secure new areas above and below ground. The forces have encountered armed Hamas terrorists wearing civilian clothing who were preparing attacks on IDF troops in the area. Over the past day, dozens of terrorists have been killed and approximately 80 individuals suspected of involvement in terrorist activity have been apprehended, including a number of terrorists that took part in the October 7th massacre. In other operations, IDF snipers killed over 15 terrorists. In the area of Deir al Balah, an Islamic Jihad terrorist who took part in the October 7th massacre in Kibbutz Nir Oz was eliminated by an IDF fighter jet.**
- **Over the past day, during IDF activity in the northern Gaza Strip, IDF troops killed numerous terrorists during targeted raids and ambushes. IDF missile ships identified a terrorist cell in the area where IDF troops in the central Gaza Strip were operating. During joint ground, naval, and aerial activity, the terrorist cell was struck and a number of the terrorists were killed. In additional operations in the Gaza Strip, IDF ground troops killed over 15 terrorists in different encounters and struck a compound used by terrorists to fire at IDF troops and store explosives.**

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### Northern border:

- Following the numerous launches identified from Lebanon toward the areas of Metula and Mount Hermon in northern Israel, earlier today, IDF artillery struck the sources of the fire. Additionally, a launch was identified crossing from Lebanon into the area of Kiryat Shmona in northern Israel earlier today. IDF artillery struck the source of the fire. Moreover, IDF fighter jets struck military compounds used by the Hezbollah terrorist organization in the areas of Kfar Kila and Tayr Harfa in southern Lebanon earlier today.
- The 36th Division, the Northern Command's offensive division, has completed an intense combat operation in the Gaza Strip, during which the division's soldiers significantly damaged the capabilities of the Hamas terrorist organization. Now, the division is increasing its readiness for operational plans against the northern enemy - in defense and offense. As part of the process to enhance readiness on the northern border, this week, the 188th Brigade began a series of intensive exercises to strengthen the skills and preparedness of the brigade's soldiers. The brigade's soldiers conducted combat exercises in dense and built-up areas, in winter weather conditions, while training skills and techniques from the platoon level up to the level of the battalion combat teams.

### 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:

- Yesterday, (Feb. 7) 4 tankers of cooking gas and 2 tankers of fuel designated for the operation of essential infrastructure in Gaza, have entered the Gaza Strip.
- Today, (Feb. 8) between 10:00 and 14:00, the IDF will pause operations in the Al-Shaboura neighborhood, in the town of Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, in order to enable movement of humanitarian aid.
- More than 151,130 tons of food have entered the Gaza Strip.
- 21,280+ tons of water have entered the Gaza Strip.
- 16,900+ tons of medical supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.
- 23,780+ tons of temporary shelter supplies have entered the Gaza Strip.
- 16,100+ 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.