

OPERATIONAL UPDATE:

ISRAEL – HAMAS WAR

DAY 228 OF THE WAR

LAST UPDATE 21/05/2024, 08:30 PM ISRAEL TIME

THE IDF IS CONTINUING TO TRANSFER TONS OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO NORTHERN GAZA

International:

- Hezbollah's ongoing violations of UNSCR 1701 have rendered it effectively null and void
- Israel is open to a diplomatic solution that will enable the residents of the north to return home in peace and security
- If diplomatic efforts fail, we are ready to act militarily in order to remove the threat of Hezbollah from our border
- The U.S. continued 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.

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.

1. The dismantling of Hamas' military and administrative capabilities should not only be the goal of the IDF and Israel but of the whole world.
2. 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.

Humanitarian Aid:

Since the beginning of the war, 572,300 tons humanitarian aid , approximately 29,746 trucks of humanitarian aid, were brought into Gaza.

Among the humanitarian aid brought into Gaza

- 427,870 tons of food
- 59,930 tons of shelter equipment
- 34,940 tons of water
- 23,260 tons of medical supplies
- 25,800 tons of mixed equipment.

As well, since the beginning of the war, 242 fuel tanks and 477 tanks of cooking gas entered Gaza

Northern border:

- Thus far since the 7th of October Hezbollah has fired more than 3100 rockets from Lebanese territory and 35 rockets from Syrian territory into Israeli territory.
- IDF is continuously carrying out precise, responsive strikes against Hezbollah infrastructure and terrorist cells, including deep inside Lebanese territory.
- As a result of these Hezbollah attacks, 28 Israelis including 18 soldiers and 10 civilians.
- Since the 7th of October 370 Hezbollah terrorist and commanders have been eliminated.

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Update on Humanitarian Aid:

- 403 aid trucks were inspected and transferred to the Gaza , yesterday, (May.20). These trucks entered from the various aid routes we developed: Ashdod port, Erez crossing, Judea and Samaria, and JLOTS (maritime route).
- JLOTS (Joint Logistics Over the Shore): Yesterday (May.20), 14 trucks of aid were transferred into Gaza, through the temporary floating pier. To date, over 569 metric tons of humanitarian assistance has been delivered across the temporary pier to Gaza for further distribution by humanitarian partners. The United States, United Kingdom, UAE, European Union, and many other partners have donated this humanitarian assistance.
- Ashdod Port: 40 trucks of flour were coordinated via the Ashdod port program (May.20).
- Aid to northern Gaza: A total of 40 trucks were coordinated to northern Gaza via Erez West Crossing (May.20).
- Field Hospitals: There are currently 8 operational field hospitals (May.20).
- 26 bakeries are currently operational in Gaza, providing close to 5 million breads, rolls, and pita breads daily.
- The northern water pipeline from Israel and the Bani Suheila line are now fully operational.
- Today, (May. 21) between 10:00 and 14:00, the IDF will pause operations in the El Bashiti neighborhood, to enable the movement of humanitarian aid.

Statistics

- 1,200+ Israelis killed since the morning of october 7th.
- 631 fallen soldiers.
- 283 IDF soldiers have been killed in action in the ground operation.
- 18 IDF soldiers and 10 israeli civilians were killed by Hezbollah terrorism.
- 3,500+ IDF soldiers wounded since the beginning of the war.
- 128 hostages remain in Gaza.
- 12,000+ rockets launched into Israel, in the past couple of weeks many of them were aimed at the Kerem Hashalom crossing.
- 3,500+ rockets were launched into Israel from Lebanon.
- 124 Israeli hostages released.
- 11 foreign national hostages released.
- 700+ tunnel shafts and underground routes uncovered just in the Rafah Area.

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- 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. The IDF will continue to defend Israel's borders from any threat. Meanwhile, the people of Lebanon must prevent Nasrallah from dragging the entire state into war. While the country is under great economic suffering, Hezbollah abuses the people of Lebanon as human shields, especially in areas in southern Lebanon where civilian homes are used as military posts and weapon storage.

The IDF currently has three operational objectives regarding Hezbollah's threat:

- **Defensive:** The IDF has been operating along the northern border to protect the area from enemy fire, such as anti-tank missiles, to prevent the Hezbollah terrorists from entering Israel.
- **Offensive:** The IDF has been targeting Hezbollah's forces and weakening its military capabilities by carrying out precise, responsive strikes against Hezbollah's infrastructure and terrorist cells. So far, the IDF has struck 150+ terrorist cells and killed 200+ terrorists and commanders.
- **Readiness Level:** Despite the preference for a diplomatic solution to Hezbollah's threat, the IDF has deployed three divisions since Oct. 7 to its northern command and has been conducting a series of training and exercises in preparation for war.