

October 7, 2024 - March 4, 2024

150 Day Update



About the Council for a Secure America

The cornerstones of American national security are: a strong military, a vibrant economy, enduring alliances, and American ingenuity. The Council for Secure America was founded on the premise that American energy independence, in all of its forms, is the underpinning for U.S. security.

For decades, American foreign policy was forced to make concessions to foreign nations who fueled its economy. In 2019, thanks to the innovation of American energy producers, the United States achieved energy independence. This accomplishment made America the leading energy producer in the world, fortifying its national security and buttressing geo-political stability in the Middle East.

Amongst America's many allies, the US-Israel partnership is a strategic, long-lasting and ongoing bilateral alliance. Energy independence has only strengthened it.

CSA educates key audiences on the importance of domestic energy production and technologies to American and Israeli mutual national security interests.

Moreover, American energy statecraft has reshuffled the geopolitical landscape and sowed the seeds of peace in the Middle East, enabling old adversaries to become allies. In 2020, the United States brokered the Abraham Accords—promoting unprecedented normalization and multilateral ties between its closest ally, Israel, and Arab States including the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Sudan, and the Kingdom of Morocco.

CSA champions the ideals of the Abraham Accords and their critical impact on geopolitical security and global trade. CSA is advancing these partnerships and is committed to bringing multi-faceted awareness to complex and evolving challenges.



Recommendations for the US: Maintain, Enforce, Support

Maintain

- American military force posture in the Middle East
- American energy independence
- International freedom of navigation through the Red Sea

Enforce

All existing sanctions against Iran

Support

- Israel's right to defend itself
- Efforts to release all hostages
- Humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza



Report Prepared from a Variety of Media, Government, and Expert Sources and Are Hyperlinked Throughout

- ABC
- ADL
- Air & Space Forces Magazine
- Al Jazeera
- Al Mayadeen
- Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
- Al Monitor
- The America Times
- AP
- Arab World for Research & Development
 HAMAS Ministry of Health
- Axios
- BBC
- The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University
- The Brookings Institution
- Business Insider
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- CBS
- Center for American Progress
- Center for Strategic & International Studies
- Channel 12 Israel News
- CIA
- CNN
- Congressional Research Service
- Council on Foreign Relations

- The Economist
- Energy Council
- European Jewish Press
- Financial Times
- FOX News
- Foreign Policy Research Institute
- France 24
- GazaNow
- Haaretz
- The Guardian
- Institute for National Security Studies USAID
- Israel Defense Forces
- Israel Hayom
- Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jerusalem Post
- The Jewish Chronicle
- KidnappedFromIsrael.com
- Los Angeles County District Attorney
 US White House
- Levent Kemal
- Middle East Policy Council
- Middle East Research Institute
- NBC.
- New Yorker
- The New York Post
- The New York Times
- NPR
- Oregon Public Broadcasting
- Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research

- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
- PBS
- Political Handbook of the World 2014
- Politico
- Reuters
- SKY News
- The Telegraph
- Times of Israel
- Trading Economics
- United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- US Central Command
- US Department of Defense
- US Energy Information Administration
- US Navv
- US State Department
- US Treasury Department
- USA TODAY
- United States Institute of Peace
- The Wall Street Journal
- The Washington Institute for Near East **Policy**
- The Washington Post
- TIME
- West Point Modern War Institute
- Yale School of Management
- Ynet News



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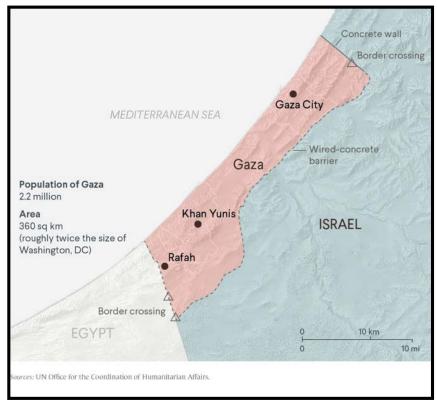
Understanding Gaza & HAMAS



Gaza, population 2.2M, is 25 miles long and 6 miles wide



Gaza's borders: West borders Mediterranean Sea East, North borders Israel South borders Egypt





Historical Control of Gaza

Prior to 1500s:

<u>Egyptian Pharaohs</u>, Babylonians, Philistines, Alexander the Great, Romans, Mongols, Crusaders and Napoleon

■ 1500s-1917:

Ottoman Empire

1917 - 1948:

United Kingdom (referred to as British Mandate)

1948-1967:

Egypt controls Gaza, the State of Israel established next to Gaza

1967-2005:

Six Day War leads to Israeli control over Gaza, although Israel withdrew from most of Gaza in 1994 as a result of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement (a treaty of the Oslo Accords)

2006-2007:

Full Palestinian Authority control over Gaza after Israel withdraws from the entirety of Gaza

2007-2023:

HAMAS rules Gaza, next to the State of Israel



Generation HAMAS: if you're 21 years or younger in Gaza, you don't remember life before HAMAS



Gaza - Top Sources of Funding

Palestinian Authority



~\$1.7 billion annually

Qatar



~\$1.3 billion total 2012-2021

UN Agencies



~\$4.5 billion total 2014-2020



Jihad is Cornerstone of HAMAS' Founding Charter

Death to Jews

"The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him."

(Article 7)

Solution is Jihad, Not Peace

"[Peace] initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement... Those conferences are no more than a means to appoint the infidels as arbitrators in the lands of Islam... There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility."

(Article 13)



HAMAS (Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement)

- Formed in 1987 during the first Palestinian Intifada as a rival to Arafat's secular FATAH party (now lead by PA President Mahmoud Abbas)
- Sunni Islamist group, founded as an armed Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood
- Hybrid terrorist organization and totalitarian government
- Designated by the <u>US, EU</u>, <u>UK</u>, <u>Australia</u>, <u>Canada</u>, <u>Israel</u>, <u>Japan</u>, and <u>Paraguay</u> as a terrorist organization because it prepares, plans, and commits acts of terror.





The Iranian Terror Connection



Iran Supports Armed Islamic Groups Attacking Israel





US Dept. Treasury Nov. 14 2023

"Iranian support, primarily through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has enabled Hamas's and PIJ's terrorist activities, to include the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars in financial assistance and the furnishing of both weapons and operational training."

In HAMAS's words: Iran Funds HAMAS Military

Iran had significantly increased funding for Hamas' military wing in the past year from \$100 million annually to about \$350 million a year.



HAMAS Deputy Chairman Saleh Al Arouri, in an interview with Lebanese TV on 12/30/17:

"Iran is the most [hostile] country in the world toward the Zionist entity. Iran is the only country that says that this entity is cancerous, and should be uprooted from the region. This is Iran's official position and it is willing to provide real and public support to the Palestinian and other resistance movements fighting that entity...nobody but Iran gives us any military support... The Iranians provide aid to the Palestinian resistance... To the people who question Iran's confrontation with Israel, I say: Who supported the resistance in Lebanon until it drove out the Israeli entity? It was Iran. Who supports the resistance in Gaza and Palestine? Iran. It is Iran and Hizbollah that confront that entity along with us."



In Iran's words: Iran Funds HAMAS Military



<u>Iranian official Mohammad Mehdi</u> <u>Shariatmadar said on a January 26, 2024</u> interview on Saudi TV:

"All the bullets, all the rockets, and all the UAVs that are fired or launched against the Israeli entity anywhere - where in south Lebanon - in Palestine, or anywhere - are either made in Iran or the product of Iranian training. All the weapons. You cannot see anyone [else] in the world who gave a single bullet to the Palestinian resistance movements against the Israeli entity.



In White House's words: Iran Funds HAMAS Military



<u>December 15, 2023 Statement by US Under Secretary of Treasury</u> for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence

"HAMAS receives significant financial support from Iran and generates revenue through its secret investment portfolios, with a network of global assets estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The portfolio includes companies operating in Sudan, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, and Türkiye, among others. The companies in HAMAS's portfolio have operated under the guise of legitimate businesses, and their representatives have attempted to conceal Hamas's control over their assets. To launder and move their illicit proceeds, the group operates a vast network of shell companies and take advantage of permissive jurisdictions and facilitation hubs to move these funds. They also smuggle physical currency and use a regional network of money transmitters, exchange houses, and a longtime US-designated, Hizballah-affiliated bank, Bayt Al-Mal, to move funds from Iran into Gaza."



Source of Iranian Terror Funding: Iranian Oil Revenues

Yale School of Management analysis:

- "Iranian oil is a small fraction of Middle East oil production—only around 12.5%, nearly 4 times smaller than the largest producer, Saudi Arabia." For context, the <u>US produces approximately 21% of oil in the world, compared to Iran's 4%</u>.
- "Oil sales are a critical choke point for Iran, with oil exports representing up to 70% of Iranian government revenues by some estimates."
- "Iran is <u>riding high right now</u> thanks to the fact <u>Iran is on pace for near-record oil</u> <u>production this year</u>, with production <u>doubling from less than 2 million barrels</u> per day in 2019 to <u>3.5 million barrels</u> per day now. This represents **an over <u>\$40 billion</u> increase in revenues**"
- Choking Iranian oil production would "reduce the funds Iran has available to fund its terrorist proxies."

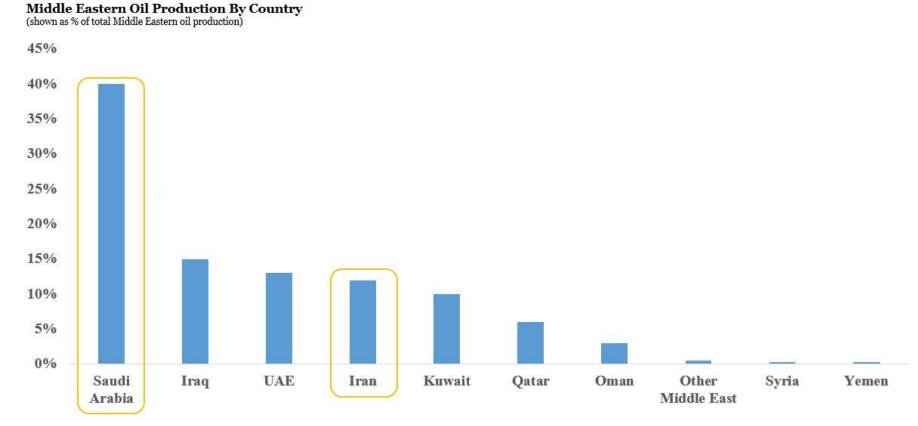
The Wall Street Journal: China is "by far the largest buyer of Iranian oil."



Saudi Arabia Produces 4X More Oil than Iran



Iranian Oil Easily Replaceable





The IRGC-HAMAS Meeting on October 2, 2023

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

"Iranian security officials helped plan HAMAS's Saturday surprise attack on Israel and gave the green light for the assault at a meeting in Beirut last Monday [October 2, 2023], according to senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah...Officers of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had worked with Hamas since August to devise the air, land and sea incursions"



What Led to October 7?



Israel: Remembering Its History

- 1948 Israel's Independence and the start of the alliance with the United States
- 1967 Israel's Six Day War against Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon
- 1973 Egypt and Syria launch Yom Kippur War against Israel
- 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty signed
- 1987 Palestinians launch First Intifada (uprising) against Israel, fueled by HAMAS
- 1993 Oslo Accords agreement between Israel and the Palestinians signed
- 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty signed
- **2000** Palestinians launch **Second Intifada** (uprising) of mass terrorism against Israel
- 2005 Israel's unilateral disengagement of all civilians and soldiers from Gaza
- 2020 the Abraham Accords established relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Morocco, and Sudan
- **2023** first internal Israeli protests against judicial reform



20 Years of Rocket Attacks Against Israel from Gaza

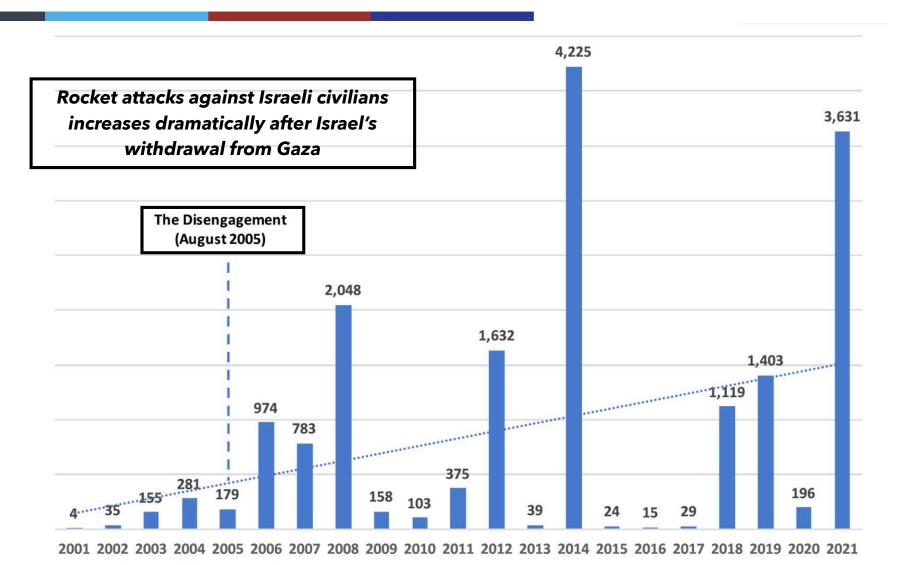


Figure 2. Number of rockets fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip by year.

Sources: Ben Sasson-Gordis (2016) and Meir Amit Terrorism and Information Center (2017–2022).



Energy Statecraft Brings Israel Closer to Arab Countries, Strengthens American National Security

Foreign Policy Research Institute: "<u>Gas geoeconomics</u> has strengthened the already emerging geopolitical alignment between Greece, Cyprus, Israel, Egypt, and the Gulf States"

Times of Israel: "Natural gas from Israel's <u>Leviathan</u>, one of the world's largest deep-water gas discoveries, which contains an estimated 22 trillion cubic feet of gas, started to flow to the Israeli domestic market in December 2019. Currently, a maximum capacity of up to 1.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, or 12 billion cubic meters per year, is piped up from the Leviathan reservoir for the supply and sale of gas to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan."

<u>Israeli Natural Gas Trade Association:</u> Israel ranks 3rd among OECD countries in natural gas reserves per capita with twice as much as Canada and nearly three times as much as the United States.

<u>September 2020:</u> Under the **Abraham Accords**, Israel establishes relations with United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Months later the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Sudan join.



While HAMAS Continues Armed Struggle Against Israel, Energy Statecraft Brings Israel Closer to Arab Countries

- June 2022: EU, Israel and Egypt sign deal to increase gas exports from Israel and Egypt to Europe to replace Russian energy imports during Ukraine-Russia War.
- October 2022: Lebanon and Israel sign an agreement, despite having no diplomatic relations. The <u>maritime deal</u> allows for both countries to benefit from an agreed maritime boundary, ensuring offshore natural gas exploration can continue for the benefit of both countries.
- June 2023: Israel begins formal cooperation with Egypt and the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank to develop the Gaza Marine offshore gas field estimated to hold more than 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas enough to cover the gas needs of Gaza and also export gas.



Sept. 2023: Emboldened Iran, Growing Arab Engagement with Israel

- <u>September 2023:</u> Nearing Saudi '<u>megadeal</u>' to join the Abraham Accords and establish diplomatic relations with Israel
- September 2023: US-Iran prisoner swap includes unfreezing of \$6B for Iran
- September 2023: India-Middle East-Europe Corridor announced, connecting India to Europe linked by a railway line and existing ports through the <u>United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi</u>
 Arabia, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Israel



West Bank: Growing Security, Economic Challenges

AP March 2023: "With West Bank in turmoil, new Palestinian militants emerge"

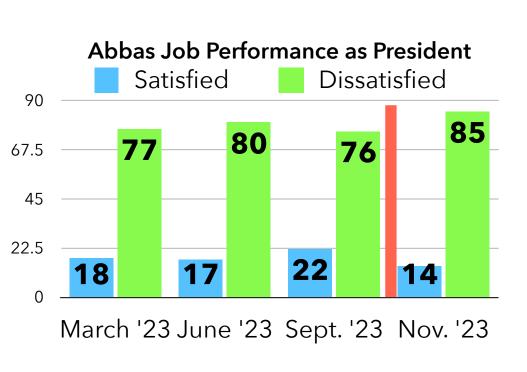
"Palestinian [Authority security] forces now rarely venture into militant strongholds [in the West Bank] like the Old City of Nablus and the Jenin refugee camp...With the popularity of the PA plummeting, experts say it cannot risk inflaming tensions by arresting widely admired fighters."

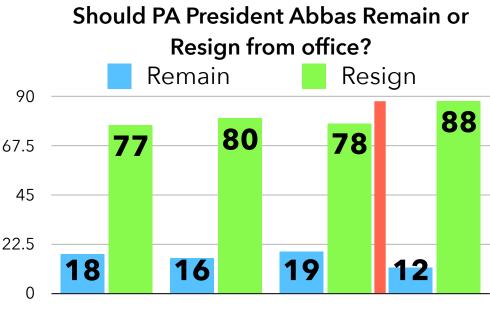
- PA's total debt to domestic banks: \$2.5 billion (2022, with GDP of \$19 billion)
- West Bank unemployment: 13% (2022)

July 2023: Due to growing terrorism emanating from the West Bank and the lack of action from the PA security forces, Israel carried out its "largest military **operation in two decades**" in the West Bank



~80% of Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza Want PA President Abbas to Resign, Dissatisfied with His Performance



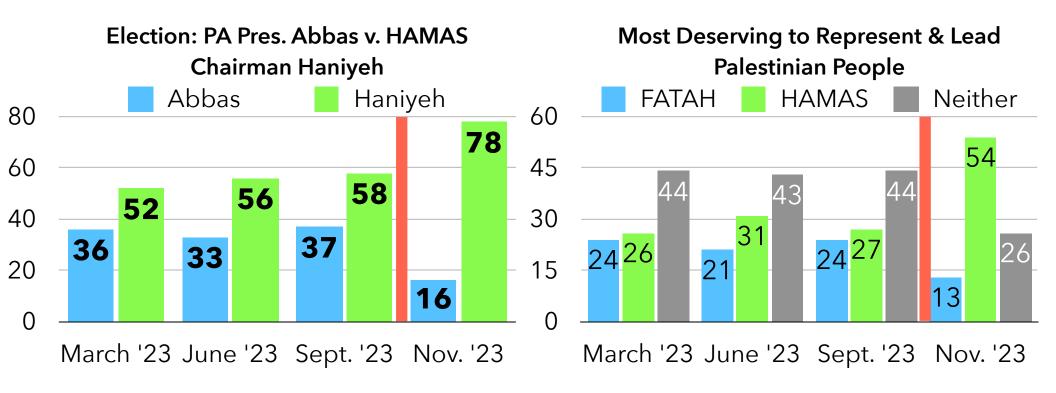


March '23 June '23 Sept. '23 Nov. '23

Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research: Polling conducted from March 8-11, June 7-11, September 6-9 2023, and November 22 - December 2 2023. Sample size 1,200 adults interviewed face-to-race in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%



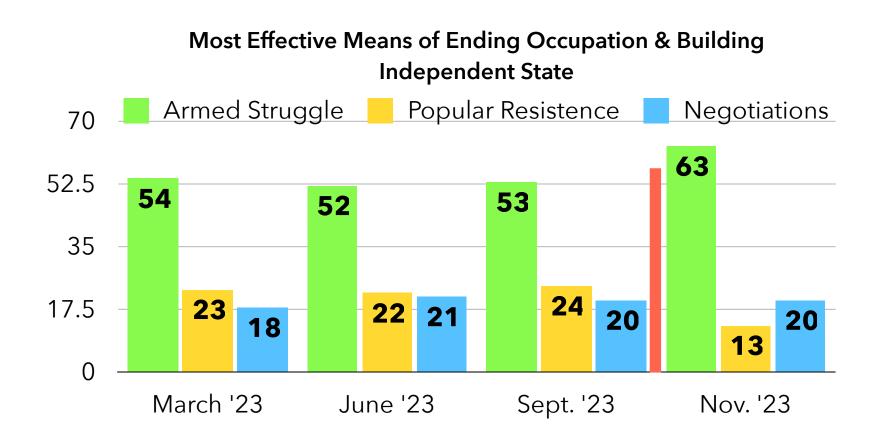
HAMAS Leader Ismail Haniyeh Would Win an Election Against PA President Abbas



Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research: Polling conducted from March 8-11, June 7-11, September 6-9 2023, and November 22 - December 2 2023. Sample size 1,200 adults interviewed face-to-race in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%



Violence Against Israel Seen as Effective by Palestinians



Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research: Polling conducted from March 8-11, June 7-11, September 6-9 2023, and November 22 - December 2 2023. Sample size 1,200 adults interviewed face-to-race in over 100 randomly selected locations. Margin of error +/-3%



HAMAS Increasing Size of Forces & Weapons

Arsenal (smuggled and self-made):

- **18,000-20,000 rockets** (short and long range)
- 300 anti-tank missiles
- 100 anti-aircraft missiles
- Small number of surface-to-air missiles, RPG, mines
- Dozens of unmanned aerial vehicles and drones
- Machine guns, assault rifles, sniper rifles

Forces (2023):

- 30,000-40,000 fighters
- including 3,000-5,000 Nukhba elite forces
- including ~400 naval commandos



The Warning Signs: HAMAS Interview August 25, 2023



HAMAS Deputy Chairman Saleh Al Arouri to Lebanese TV:

"A total war has become inevitable. We all consider it necessary. We want it. At the resistance axis, the Palestinian people, and our nation, we want this total war. It is not [just] something we say in the media. We talk about it behind closed doors. We are meeting with all the parties that [will take part] in this total war, and we are discussing together the different scenarios and possibilities."

The Warning Signs: IDF, Egyptian Intelligence

POLITICO

Our warnings on Hamas were ignored, Israel's women border troops say

"Several soldiers in Israel's predominantly female border surveillance forces...are telling the media their <u>superiors did not heed</u> warnings of unusual activity inside Gaza, such as Palestinian guerrillas training with explosives or rehearsing attacks on a replica tank and a mock observation post...

The women's warnings, made over several months, did not correspond to the received wisdom that Hamas had been tamed... The activity was not just minor, and included Hamas sending up drones several times a day in the weeks leading up to the attack."

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

"Egyptian intelligence official said that

Jerusalem had ignored repeated warnings

that the Gaza-based terror group was

planning "something big" – which included
an apparent direct notice from Cairo's
intelligence minister to the prime minister."

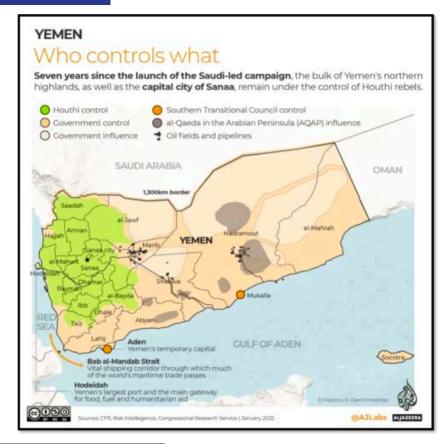


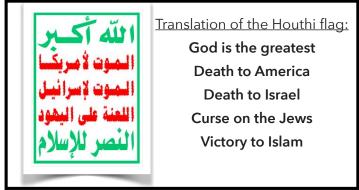
"We know that **Egypt has warned the Israelis three days prior that an event like this could happen,"** [House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Chairman Rep.] McCaul told reporters
following a closed-door intelligence briefing on
Wednesday for lawmakers about the Middle
East crisis"



Houthi Rebels in Yemen: an Enemy a 1,000 Miles Away

- The Ansarallah organization (referred to as 'Houthis') started a civil war against the Republic of Yemen government with over 377,000 Yemenis killed to date.
- The Houthis are a Zaydi Shiite clan representing ~35% of Yemen's population.
- The Houthis are funded and armed by Iran.
- Saudi Arabia supported the Yemeni government in its military operation by organizing a coalition of Gulf states, with US support. The Houthis used ballistic missiles and drones to attack Saudi Arabia and UAE.











How HAMAS Invades Israel in One Hour

Years of training and intelligence gathering (drone & human intelligence from Gazans working legally in Israel)

Fire over **3,000 rockets from Gaza** as cover, sending Israeli troops and civilians into shelters and effectively ending the existing ceasefire between Israel and Hamas **Sever surveillance towers**, destroy unmanned weapon towers, neutralize IDF tanks along border with armed drones, bombs, guns and RPGs

Breach fence in 30 places, arrive by car, motorcycle, foot and paraglides

~3,000 terrorists invade Israel with extensive arms and vehicles, detailed maps and instructions, and GoPros









The Unfathomable Massacre

HAMAS terrorists...

- Murdered soldiers on IDF bases and purposefully hunted down innocent civilians
- Indiscriminately <u>tied up</u>, <u>tortured</u>, <u>murdered</u>, <u>beheaded</u>, <u>mutilated</u>, <u>burned alive</u>, and <u>raped</u> (<u>men and women</u>) innocent civilians of all ages
- Seized buildings to take hostages and entrench themselves
- Took hostages dead and alive back to Gaza
- Burned and destroyed homes, cars, and buildings
- Took to Al Jazeera and Al-Aqsa TV to call for Palestinians in the West Bank to join the massacre

Oct. 7 was the deadliest attack in Israel's history.

More Jews died on Oct. 7 2023 than any day

since the Holocaust.



The children were slaughtered in their homes, in their bedrooms; several of them were horrifically burned alive, while others were brutally murdered in the presence of their parents; these are their names and faces

"The UN's envoy on sex crimes during conflict presented a report Monday at the UN indicating that rape and gang rape likely occurred during the October 7 Hamas onslaught against southern Israel, that "clear and convincing" evidence shows that hostages were raped while being held in Gaza, and that those currently held captive are still facing such abuse."



30% of October 7 Deaths: Tribe of Nova Music Festival

- 4,000 person outdoor electronic music festival located ~3.5 miles from the Gaza border occurred weekend of October 7
- HAMAS entered the area of the festival, killing 364 (including 17 Israeli police officers) and abducting 40 people
- After interrogating captured terrorists and due to a lack of maps relating to the festival site found on terrorists killed or captured, Israeli police concluded that the terrorists did not know in advance about the party. HAMAS stumbled upon the site, murdering

hundreds of innocent civilians.





Israel's Failure (as per West Point's Modern War Institute)

Dangerous cocktail of 4 ingredients:

- Underestimating HAMAS's capabilities
- **Misunderstanding** HAMAS's intentions
- HAMAS utilized improved operational security
- Confirmation bias





Israel's Immediate Response

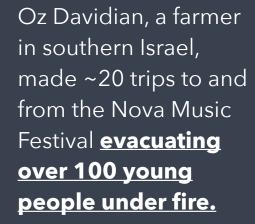
- Active-duty IDF soldiers stationed along the border fought HAMAS's infiltration and took heavy casualties.
- By 8am, <u>soldiers from Israel's combat units</u> (including many elite units) as well as reservists of all ages were heading south to fight back the terrorists without clear instructions.
- The IDF engaged in **intense urban warfare in Israeli territory** to retake IDF bases and Kibbutzim located along the Gaza border. Many soldiers were killed or injured.
- By Tuesday October 10, <u>terrorists who had infiltrated Israel on October 7 were</u> <u>killed or captured</u> (except 2 captured on <u>November 6</u>).

History Made: An <u>all-female IDF tank crew</u> arrived to the Gaza border, killing dozens of HAMAS terrorists who had invaded Israel.



Civilian Heroes From All Parts of Israeli Society

Arab-Israeli Ismail Alkrenawi and his family members evacuated over 30 **people** from the Nova Music Festival site during the massacre.





Off-duty soldier Staff Sqt. Aner Shapira, 22, attended the Nova Music Festival and hid, along with ~30 other young people, in a nearby shelter. HAMAS terrorists found them, fired guns at the shelter, and threw 8 grenades inside. Shapira, standing at the entrance, threw the first 7 grenades back outside the **shelter.** The 8th grenade killed him.





Humanitarian Challenges Inflicted on Gaza by HAMAS

On October 7, HAMAS terrorists destroyed:

- 9 of 10 power lines from Israel to Gaza
- 1 of 3 water pipelines from Israel to Gaza
- <u>Erez Crossing between Israel and Gaza</u>, normally used for Gazans to access medical treatment and employment in Israel

<u>i24 News:</u> "Caught on camera: HAMAS terrorists steal humanitarian aid, beat civilians"

<u>Times of Israel:</u> Gaza aid trucks stolen by gunmen and looted, as convoys start crossing from Israel



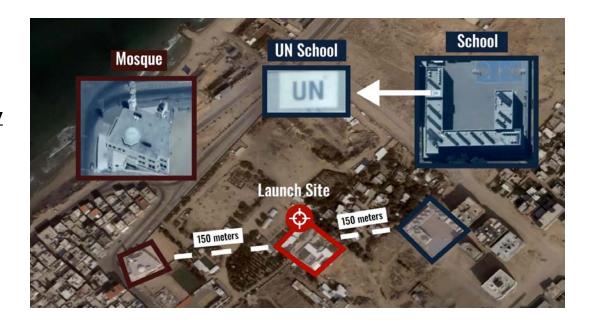
Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 1 Oct. 8 - Oct. 13 Retaking the Homefront



Israel Mourns & Prepares for War

- The process of identifying bodies (which still continues) and burying the dead begins in Israel, with dozens of funerals each day.
- Israel's Minister of Defense announces on Tuesday October 10: "We have gained control of the area and are now moving on to a full-scale response." The Israeli Air Force begins the largest bombardment of Gaza ever, despite the challenge of HAMAS's use of civilians and civilian buildings as human shields.
- At the same time, an historic

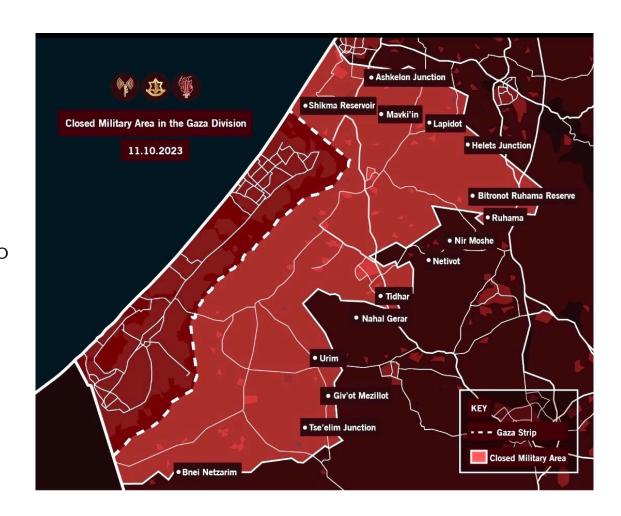
 360,000 IDF reservists are
 enlisted to support the
 170,000 strong standing army
- The IDF creates a special unit to gather intelligence on the hostages, as negotiations led by Israel's Mossad begin.





With Closed Military Zone, **Evacuation of Israelis from Southern Israel Begins**

- A massive internal displacement of Israelis begins with a forced evacuation of residents of Southern Israel.
- By November, the number of Israelis to have been forced to leave their homes would cover 64 villages and towns along the borders with Gaza and Lebanon, totaling approximately 250,000 Israelis.





Skirmishes Break Out on Israel's Northern Border

- In Lebanon, <u>Hezbollah has an estimated 150,000 rockets and missiles</u> in its arsenal, as well as <u>100,000 fighters</u> including many who gained experience in Syria fighting the Islamic State.
- Between October 8th and 13th, over 2 dozen attacks on Israel from Lebanon, including:
 - Multiple attempted infiltrations into Israel by armed Lebanese terrorists
 - Mortar shells, anti-tank missiles launched at Israel
 - IDF strikes terrorists and Hezbollah outposts along the border in response
- Israeli and American leaders didn't explicitly mention Hezbollah publicly in Phase 1
 - President Biden said on Tuesday October 10: "To any country, any organization, anyone thinking of taking advantage of the situation, I have one word: <u>Don't</u>."
 - He later repeated his general "Don't" warning to CBS 60 Minutes on October 15.



American Force Posture Seeks to Deter Hezbollah, Iran

US Visits to Region

- Oct. 12: Secretary Blinken
- Oct. 13: Secretary Austin

Military Response



- Oct. 8: USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike group sent to Eastern Mediterranean (world's largest aircraft carrier)
- Oct. 10: USS Ford Carrier Strike
 Group arrives to region

US CENTCOM Commander Gen. Kurilla comments on arrival of USS Ford Carrier Strike Group to the region:

"The arrival of these highly capable forces to the region is <u>a</u>

strong signal of deterrence should any actor hostile to Israel consider trying to take advantage of this situation."



Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 2 Oct. 14 - Oct. 27

Aerial Offensive & Targeted Ground Incursions



Israel is at War with HAMAS, Humanitarian Aid to Gaza Begins

The Israeli Air Force's massive aerial offensive continued against terror targets in Gaza, eliminating Hamas terrorists and bases, and clearing the way for ground forces' eventual invasion by removing threats and creating optimal conditions. **IDF actions in Gaza increase pressure on hostage negotiations**

Funerals continue as forensics personnel in Israel ID bodies from the October 7

massacre

- The Hostage and Missing Families Forum begins **public** activity raising domestic and global awareness of the plight of the hostages with the first hostage posters appearing around the world.
- October 21: First convoy of 20 trucks with humanitarian aid enters Gaza
- Later, this would reach over 100 trucks daily





White House, US Military Continue to Arrive in Israel

US Visits to Region

- Oct. 16: General Kurilla
- Oct. 18: President Biden & Secretary Blinken

US Military Response

Oct. 14: Another Carrier Strike Group and US Air Force fighter jets ordered to the region





Oct. 18

sanctions on 10 HAMAS
operatives and financial
facilitators. This brings the
total to nearly 1,000
individuals and entities
sanctioned connected to
terrorism and terror
financing by the Iranian
regime and it's proxies,
including HAMAS and
Hizbollah.



Israel Prepares for Ground Invasion

- Targeted ground operations by IDF elite forces occurred inside Gaza along border with Israel and from the sea to support the hostage search and prepare Gazan terrain for ground invasion.
- **Starting Oct. 18, IDF begins telling Northern Gaza residents to move south to safer areas**. HAMAS tries to prevent the departure of civilians because HAMAS uses civilians as human shields. By Nov 20, IDF made over 30,000 live phone calls, send over 10 M text messages and over 9 million recorded voice messages to people who answered their phones, distribute ~4M flyers



Evacuation flyer calling for residents to move south



Oct 24 flyer dropped over Gaza

"If your will is to live in peace and to have a better future for your children, do the humanitarian deed immediately and share verified and valuable information about hostages being held in your area. The Israeli military assures you that it will invest maximum effort in providing security for you and your home, and you will receive a financial reward. We guarantee you complete confidentiality. The Israel Defense Forces"



HAMAS's Use of Human Shields: Hiding Terrorist Forces & Weapons Behind Civilians and Inside Civilian Buildings

- HAMAS hiding its terror infrastructure inside, under, or near mosques, schools, hospitals, homes, apartment buildings and other civilian buildings was an enormous challenge already before the war.
- Unlike HAMAS, Israel distinguishes between civilians and terrorists, seeking to minimize civilian harm while HAMAS seeks to maximize civilian harm.
- The <u>HAMAS controlled Gaza Health Ministry</u> reported on October 27 that over 7,000 Palestinians had died since the start of the war. President Biden referred to data from the HAMAS Gaza Health Ministry, saying he had "no confidence in the numbers that the Palestinians are using." **President Biden later said "I have no notion that the Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed."**
- Further, the published numbers do not differentiate between civilians killed and terrorists killed.
- While there was a tragic loss of civilian life in Gaza, focus should be put on **HAMAS's** use of human shields as a major cause of the loss of civilian lives.



Step By Step: HAMAS Caught Lying About Al Ahli Hospital

- **6:59PM, October 17:** an explosion occurs at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, HAMAS immediately blames Israel and announces that over 500 Gazans were killed and Al Jazeera quickly reports the accusation as fact.
- The Media Reports HAMAS Lies: <u>headlines around the world blame Israel</u>, including the New York Times' homepage with the headline: "<u>Israeli Strike Kills Hundred</u>" and another headline claiming "At Least 500 Dead."
- The Region Responds: Violent riots erupted throughout the Middle East. Arab leaders (including the King of Jordan, the President of Egypt, and the President of the Palestinian Authority) canceled a meeting with President Biden scheduled to take place in Jordan on October 18. Palestinian Authority President Abbas declared a 3 days of mourning. The UN Secretary General claims he was "horrified by the killing of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in a strike on a hospital."
- October 18: The IDF declassifies intelligence including intercepted phone call, radar imagery, and aerial surveillance proving that the explosion was caused by terrorists in Gaza who fired a barrage of long-range rockets towards Israel from a cemetery near the hospital and one of the barrage fell in the parking lot of the hospital, killing a few dozen people.
- THE TRUTH: governments of the US, UK, France and Canada publicly stated that their intelligence services confirmed Israel's account that the explosion was caused by a rocket fired from within Gaza by Palestinian Islamic Jihad. News outlets including the NYT, BBC, and Le Monde later published apologies and corrections. The Wall Street Journal, AP, Washington Post, CNN and Human Rights Watch conducted independent analyses and conclude that the explosion was caused by Palestinian Islamic Jihad rocket fire from within Gaza. The Wall Street Journal estimates that 50, not 500, people were killed.



Israel-Lebanon Border Escalates, Concern for War

Oct. 13 - 27 attacks from Lebanon include:

- Mortar (some days with 20-30), UAV attacks, rockets, anti-tank missiles, and surface-to-air missile
- Multiple attempted infiltrations by terrorists into Israel
- IDF responded with fire at Hezbollah targets

Oct. 15, President Biden interview with Scott Pelley on 60 Minutes:

- Scott Pelley: "What is your message to Hezbollah and its backer, Iran?"
- President Biden: "Don't. Don't, don't, don't."
- Scott Pelley: "Don't come across the border? Don't escalate this war?"
- President Biden: "That's right."

Oct. 16, PM Netanyahu at speech in Israel's parliament:

- "We have a message for Iran and Hezbollah: Do not test us in the north."
- Oct. 16 mandatory evacuation begins of 28 communities along Israel's northern border



Houthi Rebels in Yemen Join the War

October 19: The USS Carney, an American Navy guided-missile destroyer, was operating in the northern Red Sea when it intercepted three land attack cruise missiles and several drones fired by Houthi forces in Yemen.





<u>Translation of the Houthi slogan/flag:</u>

God is the greatest
Death to America
Death to Israel
Curse on the Jews
Victory to Islam

USS Carney firing intercepts on October 19



First 5 Hostages Released or Rescued

Friday October 20

Judith Raanan, 59, and her daughter, Natalie, 17



Monday October 23

Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, and Nurit Cooper, 79



Friday October 27

Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) forces rescue Pvt. Ori Megidish,





Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 3 Oct. 28 - Nov. 14

Ground Incursion to Control Northern Gaza



IDF Begins Ground Operations in Northern Gaza



- Cut off Northern Gaza from Southern Gaza
- Cut off Gaza City from the sea
- **Encircle Gaza City**
- Enter HAMAS strongholds
- Go house-by-house to kill or capture

 HAMAS personnel and collect stored

 weapons (slow operations due to landmines,
 boobytraps, hidden HAMAS terrorists, tunnel
 entrances)
- ~40,000 IDF soldiers inside Gaza from at least 3 Divisions 36th, 162nd, 252nd
- Continue to tell Gazan civilians to move South to safer areas



Gaza Evacuation Efforts Prove Successful

- By October 30th, **90% of Gazan residents of Northern Gaza moved south to safer areas** with access to humanitarian aid.
- Starting November 4th, the IDF created **special humanitarian corridors to allow safe passage** of residents from Northern to Southern Gaza who were still scared of HAMAS preventing their passage.



Nov. 8: <u>IDF secures a humanitarian</u> <u>corridor for Gazan civilians to evacuate</u> <u>from Northern Gaza to Southern Gaza</u>



Nov. 10: <u>IDF secures a humanitarian corridor for Gazan civilians to evacuate</u> from Northern Gaza to Southern Gaza



Terrorists Killed & Captured, Hostage Remains Confirm Death

- The IDF has not published an estimate of HAMAS casualties in Gaza except to claim that **the majority of the Palestinian fatalities are combatants and not civilians**.
- Later, Israeli PM Netanyahu would confirm that <u>Israel killed "thousands of</u> <u>terrorists."</u>
- The IDF did confirm that <u>over 300 terrorists were captured alive in Gaza</u> and brought into Israel for interrogation.
- In the West Bank, of the approximately 2,000 people arrested or killed by the IDF in counter-terrorist operations since October 7 to prevent terror attacks emanating from there, **more than 60% were Hamas personnel**.
- Oct. 31: <u>IDF announces the death of Shani Louk</u> after remains of her skull were found. She was a 23 year old German-Israeli girl who had attended the Nova Music Festival and was taken hostage into Gaza.



Munitions Found and Cleared in Civilian Areas

Weapons found hidden under a child's bed in Gaza







HAMAS Uses Hospitals to Hide Terror Operations

HAMAS systematically uses hospitals in Gaza for terror operations, as has so for years.

- In 2014, the Washington Post referred to Shifa Hospital as "a de facto headquarters for Hamas leaders, who can be seen in the hallways and offices."
- IDF uncovered weapons caches, underground tunnels, and evidence of hostages inside and around hospitals throughout Gaza. HAMAS also fired at IDF soldiers from inside the Qatari hospital and was caught carrying a RPG into Al Quds hospital.



Weapons found in Shifa Hospital



Terrorist with RPG enters Al Quds Hospital



HAMAS fires from inside Qatari Hospital



Weapons found in Rantisi Children's Hospital



More American Forces Arrive to the Region

Military Response

Nov. 3: US acknowledges <u>US Air Force is flying</u> <u>surveillance drones over Gaza</u> since October 7 to support hostage rescue efforts

Nov. 4: Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group arrived to region

Nov. 5: Ohio-class submarine arrived to region

All missiles and armed drones fired by Houthis in Yemen were intercepted by IDF anti-missile defenses, the US Navy or Saudi anti-missile defenses.

One ballistic missile was shot down by an Arrow-3 defensive missile, an exoatmospheric hypersonic antiballistic missile funded, developed and produced by a US-Israel partnership between the Israel Aerospace Industries and Boeing.

US Visits to Region

Nov. 3: Secretary Blinken



Nuclear powered US submarine transits the Suez Canal in the Middle East



<u>US MQ-9 Reaper</u> surveillance drone



American and Israeli Deterrence Keeps Iran & Lebanon From Fully Joining HAMAS War

- In Lebanon, despite no calls by IDF to evacuate, <u>tens of thousands of Lebanese left</u>

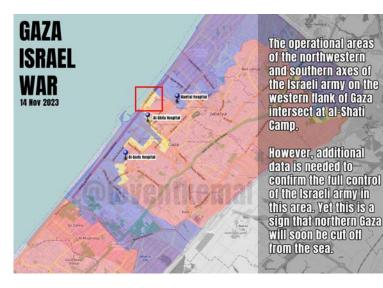
 <u>Southern Lebanon</u> for northern parts of Lebanon, away from the border with Israel.
- There was <u>a gradual escalation in Hezbollah attacks from Lebanon on Israel</u> in the number of rockets and in the size of the munitions fired into Israel. Hezbollah also used exploding drones, surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles and continued infiltration attempts, injuring Israeli civilians and soldiers.
- In part due to American and Israeli deterrence, the leaders of Hezbollah (<u>Hassan Nasrallah</u>) and Iran (<u>Ali Khamenei</u>) made excuses as to why they did not fully join the HAMAS war against Israel. It is not clear if this represents their true intention or a tactic to evade Israeli defenses.
- The Chief of the General Staff, of the IDF LTG Herzi Halevi, said on November 5 during a meeting in the Northern Command: "We are ready to strike in the north at any moment."



IDF Forces Progress Through Northern Gaza







October 31 November 2 November 14

Images sourced from @LeventKemai



November 14: Northern Gaza Secured by the IDF

The <u>Israeli military seized broader security control of northern Gaza on</u>

<u>Tuesday November 14</u>, including capturing the HAMAS parliament building and HAMAS's police headquarters - locations that carried high symbolic value. In a nationally televised news conference, Israeli Defense Minister Gallant said

<u>HAMAS had "lost control" of northern Gaza</u> and that Israel made significant gains in Gaza City.





Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 4 Nov. 15 - Nov. 30

Focus Turns to Southern Gaza, Major Hostage Release & Pause



IDF Focus Moves to Southern Gaza

Nov. 16 Financial Times:

"Israel is planning military operations in southern Gaza and has asked residents of some neighborhoods to evacuate their homes, according to leaflets dropped into the city of Khan Younis that signalled a potential widening of the Israeli invasion."

Nov. 16 IDF:

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gn. Herzi Halevi said the "IDF was close to dismantling Hamas's military capabilities in the north of Gaza and after that, would expand to more and more regions in Gaza."

Nov. 17 IDF:

IDF Chief
Spokesperson Read
Adm. Daniel Hagari
said that the IDF
was "pushing
forward against
Hamas wherever it
exists, including in
the south of Gaza."



Image source



Massive Increase in Humanitarian Aid to Gaza

- By the 50th day of war, Israel had gone from allowing 0 to **over 100 trucks of humanitarian aid into Gaza every day**. As part of the hostage agreement, over

 400 aid trucks entered Gaza on November 24 and 25 alone.
- Israel even allowed for fuel trucks to begin entering Gaza daily to support UN aid logistics and operate sewage facilities, even though the UN confirmed that HAMAS had stolen fuel from a UN facility after October 7.
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United Arab Emirates each built a field hospital in Southern Gaza. French and Italian floating hospitals docked off the coast of Egypt until the end of January 2024, and a UAE floating hospital opening in March 2024.
- Hundreds of wounded Gazans left Gaza via Egypt for treatment in hospitals around the region.

All data sourced from the Israel Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories



Continued Street-by-Street Action in Northern Gaza Uncovered Use of Civilian Locations to Hide Weapons, Forces



PIJ Missiles found adjacent to a courthouse and the Turkish hospital



PIJ <u>Heavy</u> rockets confiscated in northern Gaza



Grenades, guns found inside a school



Anti-tank missile found under a baby's crib



Escalation Along Israel-Lebanon Border

Nov. 15 - 23 attacks from Lebanon include:

- Every day, mortar (some days with 35), armed drones, rockets, anti-tank missiles, or surface-to-air missiles were fired at Israel from inside Lebanon
- IDF responded with fire at Hezbollah targets inside Lebanon
- No reports of ground forces of Hezbollah or other terrorists attempting to infiltrate into Israel, an improvement over previous phases of the war



Yemen: Ship & Hostages Seized

- November 15: USS Thomas Hudner, another destroyer, was sailing toward the Bab-el-Mandeb strait when the crew saw a drone, reported to have originated in Yemen. The ship shot down the drone.
- Nov. 20: <u>Yemen's Houthi rebels hijack an Israeli-linked ship in the Red Sea and take</u>
 <u>25 crew members hostage</u>, saying they hijacked the ship because of it's Israeli connection. The Houthis descended onto the ship by rappelling from a helicopter.
- Nov. 23: **USS Thomas Hudner, shoots down more attack drones en route to Israel** from the Houthis in Iran.
- Nov 25: Israeli air force intercept armed drone heading towards Israel in the Red Sea



Screen shots from Houthi propaganda video of their hijacking the Galaxy Leader cargo ship in the Red Sea



في صباح يوم 23 نوفمبر/ تشرين الثاني (بتوقيت اليمن)، أسقطت #مدمرة_الصواريخ_الموجهة

#يو_إس_إس_توماس_هودنر (دي دي جي 116) عدة طائرات هجومية بدون طيار أحادية الاتجاه أطلقت من المناطق التي يسيطر عليها #الحوثيون في #اليمن. تم إسقاط الطائرات بدون طيار بينما كانت السفينة الحربية الأمريكية يو إس إس توماس هودنر في دورية في #البحر الأحمر. لم تتعرض السفينة وطاقمها لأي ضرر أو

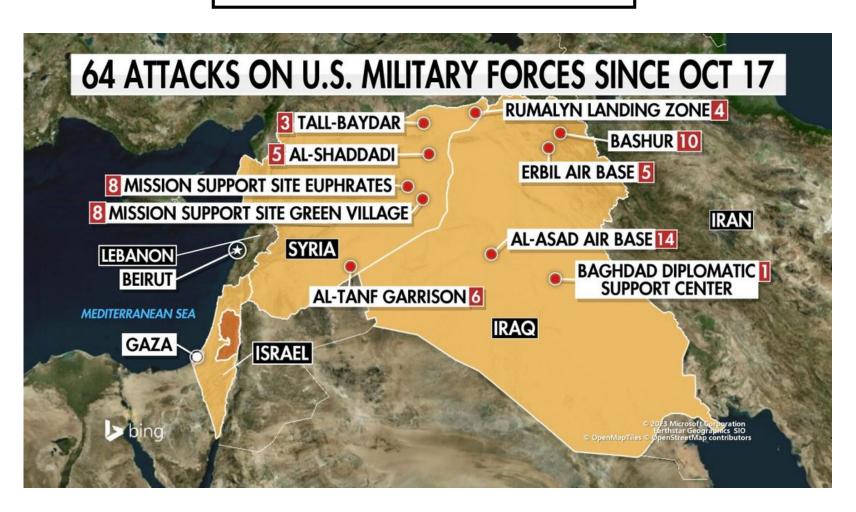
On the morning (Yemen time) of November 23, the #USS_Thomas_Hudner (DDG 116) shot down multiple one-way attack drones launched from #Houthi controlled areas in #Yemen. The drones were shot down while the U.S. warship was on patrol in the #Red_Sea. The ship and crew sustained no damage or injury



American Forces Come Under Attack in the Middle East From Iran-Backed Militias in Iraq and Syria



Nov. 30: Secretary Blinken visits region





Hostage Bodies Recovered, Agreement on Pause in Fighting

- Nov. 16, Nov. 17: **IDF recovers dead bodies of 2 hostages** taken alive on October 7. They were found near the Shifa Hospital.
- Nov. 21: <u>announcement of hostage agreement brokered by the US, Egypt, and State of Qatar</u>, to include:
 - 1. Cessation of IDF operations inside Gaza for 4 days
 - 2. Entry of hundreds of trucks of humanitarian aid and fuel into Gaza
 - 3. Release of 50 women and children hostages in exchange for Israel's release of 150 convicted criminals and terrorists from Israeli prisons (released at a ratio of 3 to every 1 Israeli hostage)
 - 4. Option to extend cessation of IDF operations for an extra day for each 10 hostages released



7 Days of Hostage Agreement Brings <u>105</u> More Hostages Home

- Nov. 24: pause in IDF actions in Gaza begins, entrance of extensive humanitarian aid begins, release of 13 Israeli, 10 Thai, and 1 Filipino hostage; Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 25: release of 17 hostages (13 Israeli, 4 Thai) as Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 26 (day 51 of the war): release of 17 hostages (13 Israeli, 3 Thai, 1 Russian-Israeli), Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 27 (day 52 of the war): release of 11 Israeli hostages, Israel freed 33 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 28: (day 53 of the war): extension of agreement, release of 12 hostages (10 Israeli, 2 Thai), Israel freed 30 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 29 (day 54 of the war): extension of agreement, **release of 16 hostages** (10 Israeli, 2 Russian-Israeli, 4 Thai), Israel freed 30 Palestinian prisoners
- Nov. 30 (day 55 of the war): extension of agreement, release of 8 Israeli hostages



<u>Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 5</u> Dec. 1 - March. 4

Ground Invasion of Southern Gaza, Expanded Attacks in Red Sea, Regionalization of the War



Released Hostages Share the Horrors of Captivity

- Due largely to intelligence gathered from released hostages, 15 hostages in Gaza were declared dead
- Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, was **beaten in the ribs with sticks by Hamas terrorists**, saying that "the lack of air in the tunnels, as well as **the shortage of food and medicine**, could bring people to complete exhaustion, and they just won't make it." She claimed they were led through a tunnel system and gathered in a large room that appeared to have been "prepared in advance."
- Hila Roten Shoshani, 12, told her family "there wasn't enough food....sometimes they waited for water."
- <u>Keren Munder</u> said that "**food was in short supply,**" while her mother Ruthy Munder said that she was kept in a suffocating room and slept on plastic chairs, covering herself with a sheet..
- The Uncle of hostages Yagil (12) and Or (16) Yaakov recounted how they were <u>branded and drugged</u>. The Aunt of hostage Eitan Yahalomi (12) told French TV that terrorists <u>beat him and forced him at gunpoint</u> to watch raw video of the October 7 Massacre, and if he or any of the other children cried, they were treated with the gun.
- Chen Goldstein-Almog, 48, said "she had met other hostages who were badly treated, including two women who said they were sexually abused." She also said "Most days they survived off pita bread with cheese."
- The Israeli Health Ministry confirmed that <u>HAMAS drugged Israeli hostages</u> with Klonopin, a tranquilizer, right before their release.

HAMAS Ends Cease-Fire IDF Continues Operation in Northern Gaza

- Early on Dec. 1 <u>HAMAS fired rockets into Israel prior to the 7am cease-fire conclusion</u> and failed to deliver a list of hostages to be released, which effectively ended the cease-fire. The <u>US blamed</u> <u>HAMAS for the collapse of the ceasefire.</u>
- HAMAS used the cease-fire to reorganize and redeploy forces, making the subsequent fighting more intense. 186 IDF soldiers were killed since the cease-fire (Dec. 1-Jan. 14) compared to 63 IDF soldiers killed from the ground invasion through the cease-fire (Oct. 27-Nov. 30).
- The **IDF exploited the cease-fire** to clear the ground it had captured of HAMAS tunnels and hideouts.
- The <u>eastern areas of Northern Gaza</u> were controlled by highly trained HAMAS units and were more fortified, therefore had not been breached earlier by the IDF.
- **IDF** went building by building in Northern Gaza neighborhoods in northern Gaza finding terrorists, weapons, and weapons labs, including inside a university and hospital. **IDF** kills 3 Israeli hostages in a traumatic incident, the bodies are returned to Israel

****80 terrorists** in the area of a hospital in Jabalya, alongside guns, RPGs, and bombs.





Continued Operation in Northern Gaza, Ground Invasion into Southern Gaza

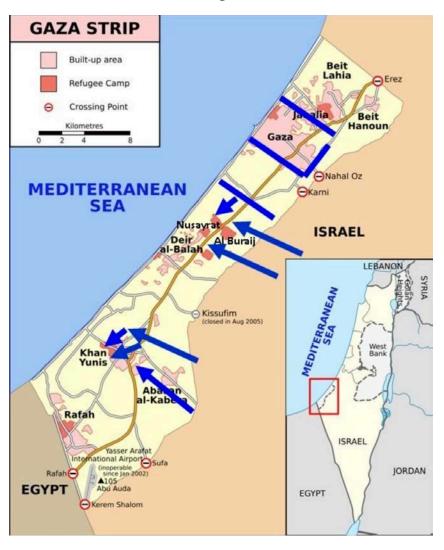
December 2023





IDF entered Southern Gaza after completely encircling Northern Gaza

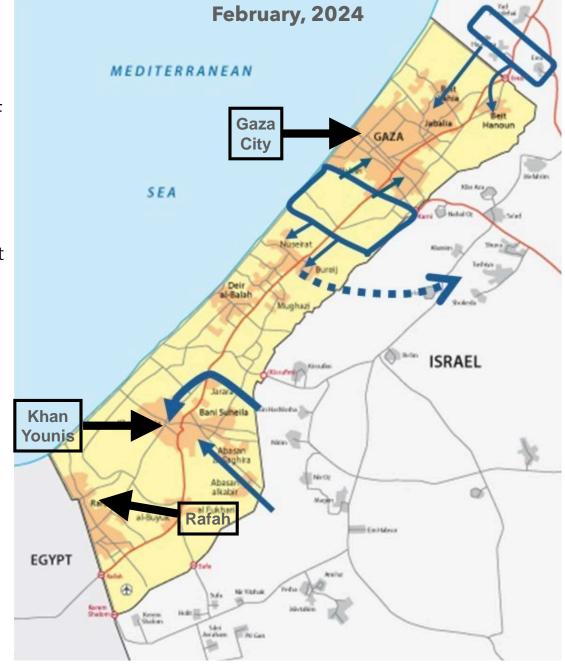
January 2024



IDF encircled Gaza City in Northern Gaza, entered Central Gaza, and advanced in Southern Gaza

Continued Operation in Northern Gaza, Ground Invasion into Southern Gaza

- In Northern Gaza, the IDF reduced its forces inside Gaza and is now operating targeted raids. In Southern Gaza, the IDF encircled Khan Younis.
- IDF operations shifted towards Rafah:
 - On Feb 4, PM Netanyahu said: "Most of the remaining [HAMAS]
 battalions are in the southern
 [Gaza] Strip and in Rafah, and we will deal with them."
 - Defense Minister Gallant warned that Israel "<u>might expand combat to</u> <u>Rafah</u> <u>after focusing on Khan Younis</u>, southern Gaza's largest city."





IDF Invaded Southern Gaza, Focusing on Khan Younis Style of Warfare Changing

- First partially encircled from North, East, and West (leaving the South open for civilian evacuation) and then full encirclement by the IDF of Khan Younis
- Axios: "The IDF believes **Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar and Mohammed Deif are hiding in Khan Younis**, and one of the main goals of the operation in the city is to capture or kill them."

 IDF has been operating for weeks inside the tunnels under Khan Younis in an attempt to catch HAMAS leaders.
- IDF continues to **destroy HAMAS' internal weapons manufacturing capabilities** of rockets, missiles, sniper rifles, bullets, drones, grenades, and bombs throughout Gaza, with <u>HAMAS</u> rocket fire dropping from an average of 75 per day in early December 2023 to 14 per day by the end of December 2023.

Fighting in Gaza transitioned to <u>small-scale guerilla-style attacks</u> of the hit-and-run nature by HAMAS personnel still remaining above ground in Northern and Southern Gaza, as the <u>IDF released over</u> <u>half of the 50,000 soldiers that were once operating in Gaza</u>



Key Quotes from IDF Chief of Staff Statement on Dec. 6

"We operate professionally; **evacuating the population from combat zones**; striking HAMAS from above and below ground with combined strikes from the air, sea, and land."

"Many ask about the destruction in Gaza. Hamas is the address. Sinwar is the address. Our forces find in nearly every building and house weapons and in many houses terrorists, and engage them in combat. We understand that part of their method is the weapons left in the houses."

A terrorist arrives in civilian clothing and conducts combat from there. Striking them requires significant use of fire, both to target the enemy but also to, of course, protect our forces. Therefore the forces operate powerfully, while making enormous efforts to mitigate as much as possible harm to civilians."



Link to full statement by IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Halevi here:



Hezbollah Escalates Israel-Lebanon Border Conflict

- While <u>Hezbollah ceased fire against Israel</u> during the Israel-HAMAS cease-fire, **Hezbollah also** renewed firing at Israel alongside HAMAS.
- Israeli leaders hint at potential pro-active action against Hezbollah
 - Minister Benny Gantz, member of the Israeli War Cabinet, suggested that increasing Hezbollah strikes on northern Israel "demand of Israel to remove such a threat"
 - IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Halevi said on Dec. 10 while on a visit to the Israel-Lebanon border that **Hezbollah risked pushing IDF forces to make a "very clear change"** in the conflict as Israel needs a return of "both safety and a sense of security."
 - On Feb. 3, the **IDF issued its most detailed warning yet to Hezbollah** saying that it would be "ready to attack immediately" and made a rare acknowledgment of dozens of airstrikes inside of Syria against Hezbollah.

On Feb. 5, Israeli Defense Minister Gallant said there is <u>"an overwhelming</u> chance of a second front opening up in the North."



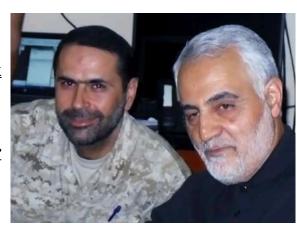
Assassinations in Lebanon and Responses

- January 2, 2024, Deputy Chairman of HAMAS Saleh Al-Arouri was assassinated in Beirut. He was one of HAMAS' "most important political leaders and operational commanders. Arouri played hands-on roles both as a key interlocutor with Hezbollah and Iran and as an operational commander overseeing Hamas terrorist plots in the West Bank."
- In response, on January 6 Hezbollah launched "antitank guided missiles, attack drones, and **no less than 62 rockets against Israel's northern air control unit** in Mount Meron."
- January 8, 2024, IDF assassinated Senior Commander of the Radwan Special Forces of Hezbollah Wissam al-Tawil.
- In response, <u>Hezbollah attacked the IDF's Northern Command HQ with attack</u> drones.
- On February 8, 2024, the IDF struck senior Hezbollah military commander

 Abbas al Dabs via drone strike. He coordinated air defense issues with Iran, including in Syria, and commanded a region that fired upon Israel. In response, Hezbollah launched 30 rockets at Israel







Hezbollah Commander Wissam al-Tawil with Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani



More American Support Arrives to the Region

US Visits to Region

■ **Dec. 14:** NSA Sullivan

Dec. 15: General Kurilla

Dec. 18: Secretary Austin

Jan. 9: Secretary Blinken

Feb. 7: Secretary Blinken

Feb. 28: General Kurilla





US General Kurilla meets

IDF Chief of Staff Halevi in Israel

US Announcements



- Dec. 9: Sec. Blinken approved the emergency sale of 13,981 tank munitions to Israel, after previously requesting approval for the sale of 45,000 shells for IDF Merkava tanks
- Dec. 12: Under Sec. of Def. LaPlante states in Congressional testimony that the US is surging maintenance and operational support for Israeli F-35A stealth fighter jets
- Jan. 5: US State Department announces up to \$10 million reward for information leading to the disruption of HAMAS funding

More American Sanctions and Support to the Region

US Announcements

- Dec. 7: US Dept. of Treasury sanctions 13 people and companies related to the financing of Houthis in Yemen.
- Dec. 19: US Dept. of Treasury sanctions 14 people and companies in Iran, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Indonesia supporting Iran's IRGC UAV production
- Dec. 28: US Dept. of Treasury sanctions 4 people and companies responsible for facilitating Iranian funding of Houthi forces
- Jan. 1: The Pentagon announced that the <u>USS Ford aircraft carrier strike group would</u> <u>leave the Middle East</u>, replaced by 3 warships from the Red Sea.
- Jan. 12: US Dept. of Treasury sanctions 2 companies for shipping Iranian commodities on behalf of IRGC-backed Houthi financial facilitator in Hong Kong and the UAE.
- Jan. 22: US Dept. of Treasury imposed a 5th round of sanctions on HAMAS since October 7, targeting a network of HAMAS-affiliated money exchanges in Gaza and those who facilitated the transfer of funds from IRGC to HAMAS. These sanctions were imposed concurrently with the UK and Australia.



More American Sanctions and Support to the Region

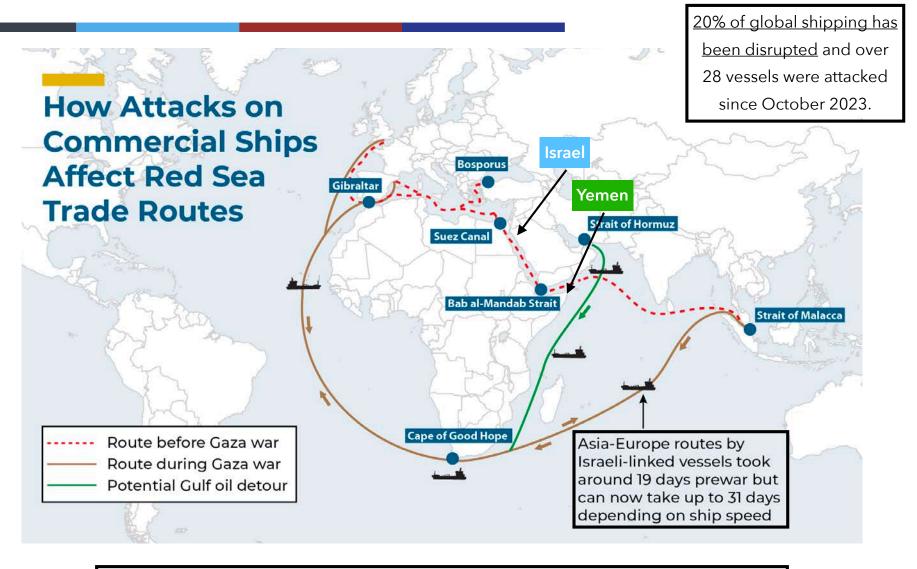
US Announcements



- Jan. 25: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned the Houthi Minister of Defense, Navy Commander,
 Director of the Houthi Navy College, and the Director of Procurement of Houthi armed forces
- Jan. 31: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned 3 entities and one individual for providing financial support to IRGC and Hezbollah.
- Feb. 2: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned six officials in the IRGC Cyber-Electronic Command responsible for a series of malicious cyber activities against critical infrastructure in the US via Israeli technology. It also sanctioned a network of suppliers in Iran and Hong Kong that supported Iran's ballistic missile and UAV programs.
- Feb. 27: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned the **Deputy Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Force-Qods Force**, a Houthi member, and a company owning a vessel used to ship Iranian commodities to support the Houthis and IRGC.
- Feb. 27: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned two companies owning and operating a vessel that shipped over \$100M in Iranian commodities to China on behalf of Iran's Ministry of Defense.



Houthi Attacks in the Red Sea Increase



<u>Secretary Blinken:</u> "More than a dozen shipping companies have had to reroute thousands of vessels around the Cape of Good Hope."



Diplomatic Road Yields Military Action Against the Houthis

- <u>Dec. 1:</u> **UN Security Council members statement** condemns "in the strongest terms recent Houthi attacks against a commercial vessel in the Red Sea... They demanded that all such attacks and action cease immediately... They underlined the importance of the navigational rights and freedoms of all vessels in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea."
- Dec. 12: The Israeli Navy dispatched a Sa'ar 6-class Corvette ship to the Red Sea
- Dec. 15: Major international shipping companies <u>Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd</u> suspend vessels' passage through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the critical connecting point between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea via the Dead Sea and Suez Canal.
- <u>Dec. 18:</u> **US led efforts to create an <u>international coalition</u> to protect ships** entering the Red Sea, called <u>Operation Prosperity Guardian</u>, a defensive coalition of over 20 countries operating in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden.
- Dec. 19: **Joint statement from the US, EU, and NATO** representing 44 allied nations including Yemen condemns "Houthi interference with navigational rights and freedoms in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula, particularly the Red Sea." <u>Secretary of Defense also hosts a virtual ministerial</u> with Ministers and Chiefs of Defense from 43 countries to discuss the Houthis.



Diplomatic Road Yields Military Action Against the Houthis

- Dec. 27: Shipping giant Maersk returns to direct its vessels through the Red Sea
- **Jan 3: US, UK and 12 other countries issue warning** to Houthis against further attacks, saying the Houthis "will bear the responsibility of the consequences should they continue"
- **Jan. 10: UN Security Council passes a resolution** condemning "in the strongest terms" the multiple attacks by Houthi rebels off the coast of Yemen which have disrupted global trade and raised fears of further spillover from the war in Gaza.
- Jan. 11: the US, UK, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, and Bahrain launched targeted attacks on Houthi military targets in Yemen, including radar systems, air defense systems, and storage and launch sites for UAVs and missiles. The objective was announced as specifically to degrade their capability to attack vessels in the Red Sea.





Speaking in Tel Aviv, US NSA Jake Sullivan said, <u>"While the Houthis are pulling the trigger, so to speak, they're being handed the gun by Iran."</u>

- Dec. 3: Four attacks against three commercial vessels by Houthis in the Red Sea, USS Carney responded to the incidents including destroying Houthi attack drones
- <u>Dec. 9:</u> French Navy shot down **two Houthi drones** in the Red Sea
- <u>Dec. 11</u>: **Houthi missile hits tanker,** USS Mason responds
- Dec. 13: USS Mason prevented Houthis from boarding a tanker, intercepts Houthi drone en route to the USS Mason
- Dec. 14: ballistic missile fired by Houthis at shipping lane
- Dec. 15: Houthi attacks on two ships with drones and ballistic missiles
- Dec. 16: USS Carney intercepts a wave of 14 attack drones launched by the Houthis
- Dec. 18: Houthis launch attack drone and anti-ship ballistic missile at commercial vessel



- Dec. 23: Houthis launch 2 anti-ship ballistic missiles and 4 attack drones into the Red Sea
- Dec. 26: US intercepts a wave of 12 attack drones, 3 anti-ship ballistic missiles, and 2 cruise missiles launched by Houthis
- Dec. 28: USS Mason shot down a Houthi drone and a Houthi anti-ship ballistic missile in the Red Sea
- Dec. 30: USS Gravely shoots down 2 anti-ship ballistic missiles while responding to Houthi attack on merchant vessel
- Dec. 31: 4 small Houthi vessels attack a commercial vessel and US helicopters. 3 of 4 boats were sunk, 1 fled.
- Jan. 2: Houthis launch **2 anti-ship ballistic missiles** into the Red Sea
- Jan. 6: **Houthi UAV** shot down by USS Laboon
- Jan. 9: Houthis fired no less than 18 UAVs, two anti-ship cruise missiles, and one ballistic missile. All were shot down.
- Jan. 11: Houthis fired an **anti-ship ballistic missile**. 30 minutes later, the US-led attack on the Houthis began

Jan. 11: US Navy SEALs intercept ship from Iran transporting advanced missile components to resupply Houthi forces.
Two Navy SEALs went missing at sea in this operation.



- Jan. 12: US forces strike a Houthi radar site in Yemen.
- Jan. 14: **Houthis fire a missile at USS Laboon** ship in Red Sea. No injuries or damage.
- Jan. 15: Houthis fired two missiles at the Red Sea, one struck an American container ship. In response, US Forces struck and destroyed four Houthi missiles prepared to launch from Yemen.
- <u>Jan. 16:</u> Houthis launched a missile and struck a merchant ship.
- Jan. 17: Houthis launched an attack on an American bulk carrier merchant ship. No injuries and some damage was reported. <u>US</u>
 Forces preemptively struck 14 Houthi missiles that were loaded to be fired in Houthi areas of Yemen.



- Jan. 18: US Forces struck two Houthi missiles aimed at the Red Sea and were prepared to launch from Yemen. Houthis launched two missiles at an American tanker ship with no reported injuries or damages.
- Jan. 19: **US Forces preemptively struck three Houthi missiles** that were aimed at the Red Sea and prepared to launch from Yemen.
- Jan. 20: **US Forces preemptively struck a Houthi missile** aimed at the Gulf of Aden and was prepared to launch from Yemen.
 - Jan: 22: US Forces alongside UK Armed Forces and with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada and the Netherlands **struck 8 Houthi targets in Yemen, including missile systems and launchers, air defense systems, radars, and weapons storage facilities.**
 - Jan. 24: US Forces preemptively struck two Houthi missiles aimed at the Red Sea and were prepared to launch from Yemen. Houthis fired 3 missiles at an American container ship in the Gulf of Aden, two of the missiles were shot down by US Forces with no reported injuries or damage to the container ship.
- <u>Jan. 26:</u> **USS Carney intercepted a missile** fired at it by Houthis. A <u>Houthi-fired missile struck and damaged an oil tanker</u> in the Gulf of Aden. <u>A joint firefighting effort</u> included the US, French, and Indian navies.

- Jan. 27: **US Forces preemptively struck a Houthi missile** aimed at the Gulf of Aden and was prepared to launch from Yemen.
- Jan. 28: US Navy SEALs intercept ship from Iran transporting over 200 packages with advanced missile components to resupply Houthi forces.
- Jan. 30: The **USS Gravely shot down a Houthi-fired missile** in the Red Sea.
- Jan. 31: **US Forces destroyed a Houthi surface-to-air missile** prepared to launch from Yemen.
- Jan. 31: **USS Carney intercepted a Houthi missile** fired towards the Gulf of Aden.
- Feb. 1: US Forces struck an Iranian-backed Houthi UAV ground control station and 10 Houthi attack drones. US Forces also shot down a UAV over the Gulf of Aden and struck an unmanned attack surface vehicle in the Red Sea. Two Houthi missiles were fired at a ship in the Red Sea with no injuries or damages reported.



- Feb. 2: USS Carney shot down one UAV the Gulf of Aden. Then, US Forces struck 4 Houthi UAVs that were prepared to launch in Yemen. In addition, USS Laboon and F-18s from Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group shot down 7 UAVs over the Red Sea.
- Feb. 3: **US Forces struck 6 Houthi missiles** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea. Later, with support from the UK Armed Forces, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, and New Zealand, **US Forces struck 36 Houthi targets** at 13 locations in Yemen. The targets included storage facilities, command and control centers, missile systems, UAV sites, radars and helicopters.



- Feb. 4: **US Forces struck a Houthi missile** prepared to launch. Later, **US Forces struck 4 more Houthi missiles** prepared to launch.
- Feb. 5: US Forces struck two Houthi explosive unmanned surface vehicles in Yemen prepared to launch.
- Feb. 6: **Houthis fired 6 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Three were attempting to hit a bulk carrier merchant ship, causing minor damage, and three were attempting to hit a cargo ship without damage.
- Feb. 7: **US Forces struck 2 Houthi missiles** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea. In addition, **US Forces struck another Houthi missile** prepared to launch.
- Feb. 8: US Forces conducted 7 strikes against four Houthi unmanned surface vehicles and seven missiles that were prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 9: US Forces struck 5 Houthi missiles and 2 unmanned surface vessels prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 10: US Forces struck 3 Houthi missiles and 2 unmanned surface vessels prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.



- <u>Feb. 12</u>: **Houthis fired 2 missiles from Yemen** towards the Bab al-Mandeb. They were attempting to hit a cargo vessel ship carrying Brazilian corn to Iran, causing minor damage.
- <u>Feb. 13:</u> **US Forces struck a Houthi missile** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea. In addition, the Houthis launched a ballistic missile into the Gulf of Aden with no damage to any ships in the area.
- <u>Feb. 14:</u> **US Forces struck 7 Houthi missiles, 3 UAVs, and one explosive unmanned surface vessel** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 15: **Houthis fired a missile from Yemen** into the Gulf of Aden. The missile caused minor damage to a UK-owned bulk carrier. In addition, **US Forces struck 3 Houthi missiles** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
 - <u>Feb. 16:</u> **Houthis fired 4 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Three were attempting to hit a commercial vessel, causing no damage. In addition, **US Forces struck a Houthi missile and an unmanned surface vessel** prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.
 - Feb. 17: US Forces struck 3 Houthi missiles, an unmanned surface vessel, and for the first observed deployment an unmanned underwater vessel prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea.

- Feb. 18: **Houthis fired 2 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea. They hit a bulk carrier merchant ship, causing damage and an <u>18</u> mile oil slick. The crew evacuated to safety.
- Feb. 19: Houthis fired 3 missiles from Yemen, including 2 towards a carrier in the Gulf of Aden carrying humanitarian aid to Yemen, causing minor damage. US Forces also struck a Houthi surface-to-air missile launcher in Yemen prepared to launch. Later, a Houthi one-way attack (OWA) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) struck a bulk carrier causing minor damages and US Forces destroyed a Houthi OWA UAV in Yemen prepared to launch at ships in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 20: US and coalition aircraft and warships shot down 10 one-way attack (OWA) unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. In addition, the USS Laboon shot down a missile fired in its direction.
- Feb. 21: US Forces struck 7 Houthi missiles and one missile launcher prepared to strike the Red Sea. Later, US Forces struck down a one-way attack unmanned aircraft aerial system in self defense.

- Feb. 22: **US and coalition forces shot down 6 Houthi OWA UAVs** in the Red Sea. The Houthis fired two missiles into the Gulf of Aden causing minor damage to a cargo carrier. Later, the <u>US Forces struck down 4 Houthi UAVs and 2 missiles</u>.
- Feb. 23: **US Forces shot down 3 Houthi OWA UAVs** near several commercial ships in the Red Sea with no damages and struck <u>7 Houthi missiles prepared to launch</u>.
 - Feb. 24: USS Mason shot down a Houthi missile targeting a US oil tanker. In addition, US Forces alongside UK Armed Forces and with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark the Netherlands, and New Zealand struck 18 Houthi targets in Yemen, including weapons storage facilities, one-way attack unmanned aerial systems, air defense systems, radars, and a helicopter. Houthis also launched a missile at a US chemical/oil tanker with no damages and US Forces shot down two one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicles over the Red Sea in self-defense. A third Houthi UAV crashed from inflight failure.



- Feb. 26: US Forces destroyed 3 unmanned surface vessels, 2 missiles, and a one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicle fired by the Houthis over the Red Sea.
- Feb. 27: US Forces shot down 5 Houthi one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicles in the Red Sea.
- Feb. 29: US Forces struck 6 Houthi missiles prepared to launch in the Red Sea and a UAV over the Red Sea.
- March 1: **US Forces struck a Houthi missile** that was prepared to launch towards the Red Sea. The Houthis also launched another missile into the Red Sea that did not damage any vessel.
- March 4: Houthis fired 3 missiles from Yemen towards the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, damaging a container vessel ship. US Forces struck 2 Houthi missiles that were prepared to launch towards the Red Sea.





The Rubymar cargo ship was carrying fertilizer when it was attacked by 2 Houthis missiles on February 18.

On March 1, it was confirmed as the first ship sunk by the Houthis since October 7, 2023.



An Emboldened Iran Pursues Nuclear Weapons

<u>Dec. 18:</u> Nearly 70% of Iran's gas stations went out of service following possible sabotage – a reference to cyberattacks, Iranian state TV reported.

Dec. 28 Statement from US, UK, Germany and France:

"The 26 December 2023 report by the IAEA highlights that Iran has increased its rate of production of uranium enriched up to 60% at Natanz and Fordow to levels observed between January and June 2023. These findings represent a backwards step by Iran and will result in Iran tripling its monthly production rate of uranium enriched up to 60%. We condemn this action, which adds to the unabated escalation of Iran's nuclear programme. The production of high-enriched uranium by Iran has no credible civilian justification..."

Feb. 7: Non-partisan Institute for Science and International Security publishes its findings showing that "Iran's nuclear weapons capabilities are more dangerous than they have ever been," with the ability to produce enough weapon-grade enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon in a week, and could produce a total of 6 nuclear bombs in a month."



Tower 22 - Attack and Response

- Jan. 28: Three US soldiers were killed and 40 wounded in an attack by an Iranian proxy militia in Iraq (Kataib Hezbollah).
- Context: Over 160 strikes directed at U.S. military bases in the region since October 7, but without any direct casualties prior to January 28. The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of Iranbacked armed groups in the region, claimed the Jan. 28 attack saying it was in response to US support for Israel's war on Gaza.
- Response: US struck 85 targets in Iraq and Syria belonging to Kataib Hezbollah and to the IRGC, including command centers, missile and drone facilities, and logistical facilities.
- Feb. 7 Assassination: A senior commander from Kataib Hezbollah responsible for "directly planning and participating in attacks" on American troops was killed via <u>US Special Operations drone strike</u>.

Tower 22: US military base in northeast Jordan with 350 soldiers that is close to a US-backed Syrian rebel group and near the border of Syria and Iraq.





Israeli Special Forces Rescue 2 Hostages Alive

- On Monday February 12, Israeli special forces rescued two hostages, Fernando Simon Marian (61) and Louis Har (70), both Israeli-Argentinian men
 - They stormed the 2nd floor a heavily guarded apartment in Rafah (southern Gaza)
 - HAMAS guards were eliminated as Israeli forces shielded the hostages with their bodies
 - The hostages were <u>escorted out under fire from HAMAS</u> to an IDF helicopter inside Gaza that flew them to a hospital in Israel



Fernando Simon Marian reunites with his family in Israel



Louis Har reunites with his family in Israel



UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

- <u>Background</u>: UNRWA was established during the 1948 war between Israel and its Arab neighbors. It was supposed to receive the <u>approximately 700,000</u> Arab refugees from the war, sustain them and prepare them for new lives.
- What Happened: "What UNRWA actually did was entrench their refugee status as permanent. A separate UN organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), caters to the needs of all other refugees around the world. UNRWA supports 5.4 million alleged Palestinian refugees whereas UNHCR supports more than 70 million refugees from other nations. Yet the budget per person for UNRWA is almost double that of UNHCR. Furthermore, UNRWA has approximately one staff member per 180 alleged refugees, whereas UNHCR has a staff of approximately one per approximately 4,200 refugees. If the UN's own rules were applied, most of the alleged refugees would not be considered refugees. Any UNHCR refugee who receives citizenship from another country automatically loses refugee status.
- <u>Education</u>: Prior to October 7, it was well documented that **UNRWA schools glorified** terrorists, encouraged violence against Israel, encouraged martyrdom, demonized Israel, rejected Israel's right to exist and promoted antisemitism.

UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

- Leading Up to October 7: A <u>UN report</u> found that **UNRWA schools were used to store weapons and launch attacks** against Israel between 2012 and 2014. UNRWA facilities, believed to be immune from Israeli attack, were used by HAMAS to house tunnels, weapons and command and control centers. <u>Under UNRWA's headquarters in Gaza, a massive HAMAS complex was discovered by the IDF</u> including large quantities of guns, grenades, bombs as well as servers and electrical infrastructure. UNRWA supplied this HAMAS underground complex with electricity. US government acknowledged that HAMAS stole cement, construction material, and money meant for UNRWA and <u>built hundreds of miles of tunnels</u> underneath Gaza.
- October 7: 14 UNRWA staff were actively involved in committing the 7 October massacre and approximately one in ten employees of UNRWA in Gaza are members of HAMAS. A former senior UN official acknowledged HAMAS' "infiltration" of UNRWA. On October 27, HAMAS launched rockets from inside and near UNRWA facilities part of a systemic use of UN facilities in Gaza by HAMAS. Still, it is the main provider of food, water, and shelter to Palestinians during the current war.



Click to watch Reuters footage reveal HAMAS infrastructure under UNRWA headquarters in Gaza

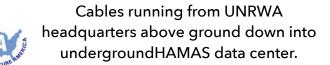


UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

Response: **Over 18 countries suspended their funding of UNRWA.** These countries collectively provide about two-thirds of UNRWA's budget. Of the top ten donors to UNRWA, only one is an Arab state (Saudi Arabia) and one other is a non-Arab Muslim state (Turkey).

"It would put our staff in jeopardy to call out HAMAS for use of our buildings or schools," a U.N. official told <u>CBS News</u>, speaking on condition that he remain anonymous. A second senior U.N. official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive topic, told CBS News: "**Of course, we** assume that HAMAS is using U.N. facilities in one way or another; it uses mosques, hospitals, schools, and those all should have extra protection status under international law."







IDF revealed an underground HAMAS data center, directly beneath UNRWA headquarters in Gaza, used for intelligence and communications.

IDF Clearing Buffer Zone Between Gaza and Southern Israel

- In an effort to prevent new attacks from
 Gaza, the IDF cleared areas near the
 Gaza-Israel border to create a 1km (0.6
 mile) buffer zone inside the Gaza Strip.
- This is believed to be an effort to allow Israelis in south to securely move back to their homes, although Israel has not publicly spoken about buffer zone plans.





Israel & World Increase Humanitarian Efforts Post-Cease Fire

- On December 15th, <u>Israel re-opened the Kerem Shalom border between Israel and Gaza</u> to allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza after opening the crossing on Dec. 12 for aid inspection
- The **IDF continued to create <u>tactical operational pauses to allow for humanitarian aid</u> to be transferred within Gaza**
- 3 more field hospitals are operational, alongside the field hospitals of the Kingdom of Jordan (41 beds) and UAE (200, pictured right) already operating inside Gaza. France and Italy have sent floating hospitals to Egypt to accept injured Gazans. The UAE operates a floating hospital in El-Arish Egypt for injured Gazans.
- IDF evacuation notices to Gazans were more precise with neighborhood-specific maps (pictured below)

Nearly 200 humanitarian aid trucks enter Gaza daily, including tankers with fuel and cooking gas

Bakeries in Gaza are now producing over 2.5 million

pitas and breads per day and Israel is enabling the

Palestinian private sector to import food, improving

quality and quantity of food





Israel & World Increase Humanitarian Efforts Post-Cease Fire

- On March 2, the US Air Force and the Royal Jordanian Air Force dropped over 38,000 meals into Gaza. In the last week, over 300 packages of humanitarian aid was airdropped over Gaza. (pictured to the right)
- On March 2, the US Air Force and the Royal Jordanian Air Force dropped over 38,000 meals into Gaza. In the last week, over 300 packages of humanitarian aid was airdropped over Gaza.



- On March 3, over 275 trucks of humanitarian aid entered Gaza, the most since the start of the war.
- <u>UNICEF</u> donated 50 incubators to be distributed amongst hospitals inside Gaza
- In the end of February and beginning of March, over 100 aid trucks entered Northern Gaza



Israel-HAMAS War:

Moving Forward



150 Days of War, By the Numbers

Gaza (as reported by HAMAS):

- Over 1.8M Gazans displaced, evacuated to Southern Gaza from Northern Gaza
- HAMAS Ministry of Health reports <u>over 30,000 killed Gazans</u>. They do not differentiate between personnel of HAMAS and other terrorist organizations and civilians.
- 10,000 missiles, rockets, and mortars fired from Gaza into Israel
- IDF has inspected over 15,400 trucks of humanitarian aid for Gaza, carrying >284,000 tons of aid

HAMAS (as reported by IDF):

- HAMAS top leadership still alive, but many HAMAS terrorists killed, including:
 - 7 members of HAMAS political leadership
 - 2 (of 5) HAMAS Brigade Commanders
 - 19 HAMAS Battalion Commanders or similar rank
 - >50 HAMAS Company Commanders
 - >13,000 HAMAS fighters killed approximately 33% of their total force

Lebanon & Yemen

- >228 terrorists in Lebanon killed by IDF; 750 Hezbollah positions struck by IDF
- >2,000 missiles, rockets, and mortars fired from Lebanon into Israel
- 49 Houthi attacks against Israel, 76 Houthi naval attacks against international shipping



150 Days of War, By the Numbers

IDF (Data from INSS):

- 586 IDF soldiers and local security officers killed and 2,536 wounded since October 7
- ~33,000 targets struck in Gaza by IDF and IAF, including >3,400 HAMAS sites discovered during the war
- IDF made 79,000 phone calls, dropped 7.2M leaflets, sent 13.7M text messages, and made 15M recorded calls to Palestinians in Gaza with evacuation warnings
- IDF soldiers **destroyed over 500** of the <u>over 1,500 terror tunnel shafts</u> found in Gaza

Israel:

- <u>1,516 Israeli casualties</u>, including over **40** babies murdered, over **14,570** injured
- >200,000 Israelis displaced
- Over <u>18,000</u> rockets fired at Israel (**1,300**+ rockets misfired and fell short into Gaza)
- 760,000 Israelis were unable to work (18% of the workforce) due to military service, displacement from home or single parents without childcare
- Reduction of >80% of rocket and missile fire at Israel
- 134 hostages in Gaza, including 2 children and 19 women, at least 33 deceased





"Israel Implemented More Measures to Prevent Civilian Casualties Than Any Other Nation in History"

The Chair of the Modern War Institute at West Point Writes:



- Israel has taken more measures to avoid needless civilian harm than virtually any other nation that's fought an urban war.
- Israel has taken precautionary measures even the United States did not do during its recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Israel provided days and then weeks of warnings, as well as time for civilians to evacuate multiple cities in northern Gaza before starting the main air-ground attack of urban areas. No military has ever implemented any of these practices in war before.
- Another historical first in war measures to prevent civilian causalities was Israel's distribution of IDF <u>military maps</u> and graphics to assist civilians with evacuations and alerting them to where the IDF will be operating. **No military in history has ever done this.**
- No military in modern history has faced over 30,000 urban defenders in more than seven cities using human shields and hiding in hundreds of miles of underground networks purposely built under civilian sites, while holding hundreds of hostages.

"Israel has implemented more measures to prevent civilian casualties than any other military in history."



Will Iranian Oil Revenues Continue to Fund Terror?

Ben Cahill, Senior Fellow at CSIS, wrote on October 11 2023: "Between May and September of this year, Iran's crude oil and condensate exports averaged some 1.4 million barrels per day (b/d), returning to levels not seen in at least four years. There is a widespread perception in the oil market that the United States has relaxed its sanctions enforcement on Iran as it negotiated over last month's <u>release</u> of several political prisoners, among other issues."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. <u>Daniel Yergin, Best-Selling Author and Vice Chairman of S&P</u>
<u>Global, wrote on November 15 in the Wall Street Journal:</u> "After ticking up a few dollars, the price of Brent crude has been even or lower than on Oct. 6, the day before Hamas's attack on Israel. There are three reasons for this: the shale revolution, market psychology and a transformation in the politics of oil."

- The shale revolution rebalanced the market. The U.S., once the world's largest oil importer, is now its largest producer. On a net basis, the U.S. is "energy independent."
- "Oil prices these days vibrate primarily on economic news and prospects"
- "In contrast to the embargo years of the 1970s, the Gulf Arab countries are thoroughly integrated into the world economy. They are focused on job creation, economic development and investment. They have also been in various stages of dialogue or diplomatic relations with Israel, seeing that as helpful to their own economies, at least up to now."



HAMAS Continues Calls for Another October 7 Massacre

October 24, 2023



December 5, 2023



January 9, 2024



HAMAS leader Ghazi Hamad said on Lebanese TV that HAMAS will repeat the October 7 Massacre time and again until Israel is annihilated.

HAMAS leader Sami Abu Zuhri called for attacks against the US and the UK on Al-Aqsa TV.

January 30, 2024



HAMAS leader Ismail Haniyeh said on Al-Jazeera: "we should hold on to the victory that took place on October 7 and build upon it."

HAMAS official Ali Baraka continued the call to repeat October 7 on Al-Manar TV.



HAMAS Leader Khaled Mashal Rejects 2 State Solution

January 18, 2024

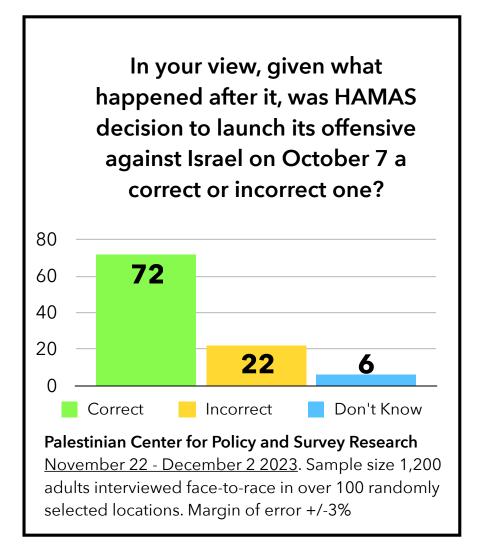


In an interview with a Kuwaiti podcaster, Khaled Mashal said: "The October 7 war has opened a new horizon for a vision of a political settlement. Here, they pull out their old 'merchandise' of the two-state solution. I would like to say two things about the two-state solution. First, we have nothing to do with the two-state solution. We reject this notion, because it means you would get a promise for a [Palestinian] state, yet you are required to recognize the legitimacy of the other state, which is the Zionist entity. This is unacceptable."



150 days of war and Palestinian Authority officials still refuse to condemn the October 7 massacre.

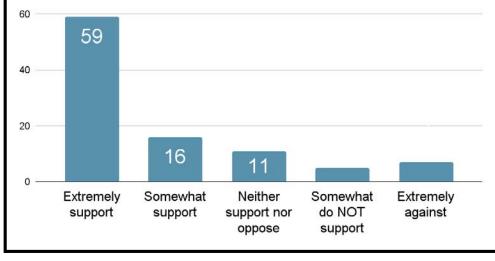
Even After Oct. 7, Palestinians Support the Oct. 7 Massacre



75% of Palestinians support the October 7 Massacre

Arab World for Research & Development conducted Palestinian public opinion research in the West Bank and Gaza between October 31 and November 7 (the 4th week of war).

How much do you support the military operation carried out by the Palestinian resistance led by HAMAS on October 7th?





Will Terror Spread to the US?

- FBI Director Wray: "Here in the U.S., we cannot and do not discount the possibility that Hamas or other foreign terrorist organizations could exploit the conflict to call on their supporters to **conduct attacks on our own soil.**"
- According to a US intelligence bulletin, **Al-Qaeda affiliates and Hezbollah are calling on supporters to target the U.S. and Israeli interests** in response to the Israel-HAMAS war and President Biden's trip to the region.
- Customs and Border protection memo suggested that <u>HAMAS or Hezbollah</u> <u>fighters could potentially enter the US via the southern border</u>.

<u>January 10, 2024 POLITICO:</u> "U.S. officials assess that there's a **rising risk Lebanese Hezbollah militants will strike Americans** in the Middle East – and even potentially hit inside the United States"



Will Terror Spread Internationally?

- Nov. 8: Israel's spy agency Mossad worked with Brazilian security services and other international agencies to **foil an attack in Brazil planned by the Iran-backed terror group Hezbollah.** Brazilian forces conducted arrests and search and seizure warrants.
- Dec. 10: <u>two Iranians are detained in Cyprus</u> with support from Israel's Mossad for allegedly **planning an attack on Israelis in Cyprus**
- Dec. 14: <u>Senior Hamas terrorists in Denmark and Germany</u> were arrested on suspicion of plotting to carry out an act of terror in Europe, with support from Israel's Mossad
- Jan. 31: <u>'Live device' detonated by police outside the Israeli embassy</u> in Stockholm, Sweden (local reports suggested it was a hand grenade)
- Feb. 8: An El Al flight in Europe underwent an emergency landing after a passenger was detained by airmarshalls while trying to infiltrate the cockpit.



Will Hate Violence Spread in the US?

- Oct 7 Nov 20: the Anti-Defamation League tracked 832 anti-Jewish acts in the United States. <u>Although Jewish-</u> <u>Americans are 2.4% of the U.S. population, they are the</u> <u>targets of more than half of all reported religion-based</u> <u>hate crimes.</u>
- **69 year-old Jewish man was killed** during a clash between pro-Israel and anti-Israel protesters.
- Palestinian-American boy aged 6 stabbed to death in Chicago, suspected killer is the landlord, who is charged with murder and a hate crime.
- A 28 year old Jewish dentist in San Diego was shot to death by a Middle Eastern man
- A bomb threat was made on a <u>Jewish school in Toronto</u> while a surge of antisemitism spread through Europe since October 7, including the <u>stabbing of a woman in France</u> and antisemitic incidents in <u>France</u>, <u>Italy</u>, <u>Austria</u>, <u>the UK</u>, <u>Belgium</u>, <u>Spain</u>, <u>Germany</u>, <u>Greece</u>, <u>Sweden</u>, <u>Switzerland</u>, <u>Portugal</u>, <u>Poland</u>, and the <u>Netherlands</u>.

LA County's District
Attorney:

On October 25, 2023 at approximately 5:20 in the morning, Garcia attempted to enter the victim's home by kicking in the door while shouting antisemitic slurs and threatening to, "kill Jews!"

Will Abraham Accords Support Remain? It Has So Far

- United Arab Emirates on Oct 8: "The Ministry stressed that attacks by Hamas against Israeli towns and villages near the Gaza strip, including the firing of thousands of rockets at population centers, are a serious and grave escalation. The Ministry is appalled by reports that Israeli civilians have been abducted as hostages from their homes."
- United Arab Emirates Minister at UN Oct 24: "We reiterate that the attacks launched by Hamas on October 7 are barbaric and heinous. We demand that Hamas release hostages immediately and unconditionally to stop the bloodshed and spare all civilians from further suffering."
- United Arab Emirates Oct. 30: "From the United Arab Emirates perspective, the Abraham Accords are there to stay," said Dr Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Defense, Interior and Foreign Affairs Committee of the UAE Federal National Council
- Kingdom of Bahrain Nov. 17: Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and PM said: "I condemn Hamas unequivocally. I stand on the side of civilians and innocents, and not on the side of political posturing. The 7 October attacks were barbaric and horrific."
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Jan. 16: Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan said that Saudi Arabia would "certainly" be interested in a normalization deal with Israel.

<u>Protests in support of the Palestinians in Arab states generally, and Abraham Accords countries specifically, were fewer and much smaller than pro-Palestinian protests in Europe and America.</u>



And Many More Questions Remain

- Where does the IDF go after clearing Southern Gaza of HAMAS? Israel is changing its strategy from regular warfare to <u>a counter-guerilla offensive</u>. How long will this last?
- Approximately <u>134 hostages remain in captivity in Gaza</u>, including women and children. At least 32 are dead and <u>6 are also American citizens</u>. What is the future of these hostages?
- Will the humanitarian situation in Gaza improve, especially as <u>HAMAS continues to</u> steal and hoard aid for its own use?
- Who will rule Gaza? <u>Reports indicate HAMAS is already returning to power in Northern Gaza</u>
- What will happen on the <u>Israel-Lebanon border</u>?
- How will the world protect the <u>10-15% of global trade</u> that passes through the Red Sea from attacks from the Houthis in Yemen?
- Will <u>US continue to engage Iran-backed militias</u> in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen?





Israel-Hamas War

October 7, 2023 - March 4, 2024

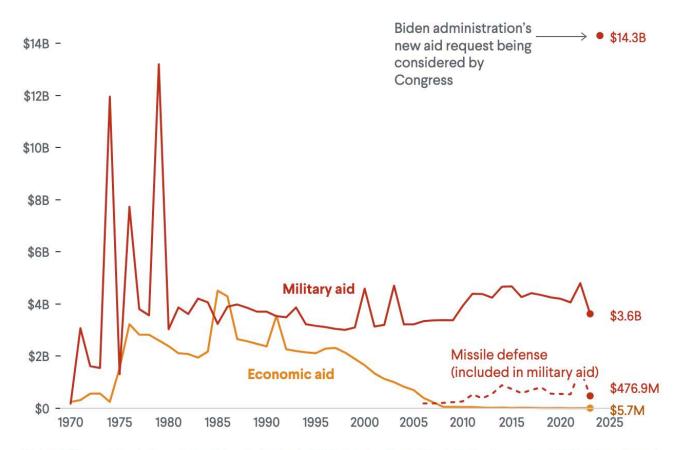
150 Day Update



Proposed US Aid to Israel Compared to Historic US Aid

U.S. Military Aid to Israel Has Been Consistent Since the 1970s

Aid by fiscal year (constant 2022 dollars)



Notes: Military aid includes missile defense starting in 2006. Data is adjusted for inflation in constant 2022 dollars, except for the \$14.3 new aid request which is in current dollars.

Sources: USAID; Congressional Research Service.

COUNCIL on FOREIGN RELATIONS

