



Israel-Hamas War

October 7, 2023 - February 17, 2025

500 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.



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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
- 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
- HAMAS Ministry of Health
- The Guardian
- Institute for National Security Studies
- Iran International
- Israel Defense Forces
- Israel Hayom
- Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jerusalem Post
- The Jewish Chronicle
- KidnappedFromIsrael.com
- Los Angeles County District Attorney
- 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
- USAID
- US Central Command
- US Department of Defense
- US Energy Information Administration
- US Navy
- US State Department
- US Treasury Department
- US White House
- 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

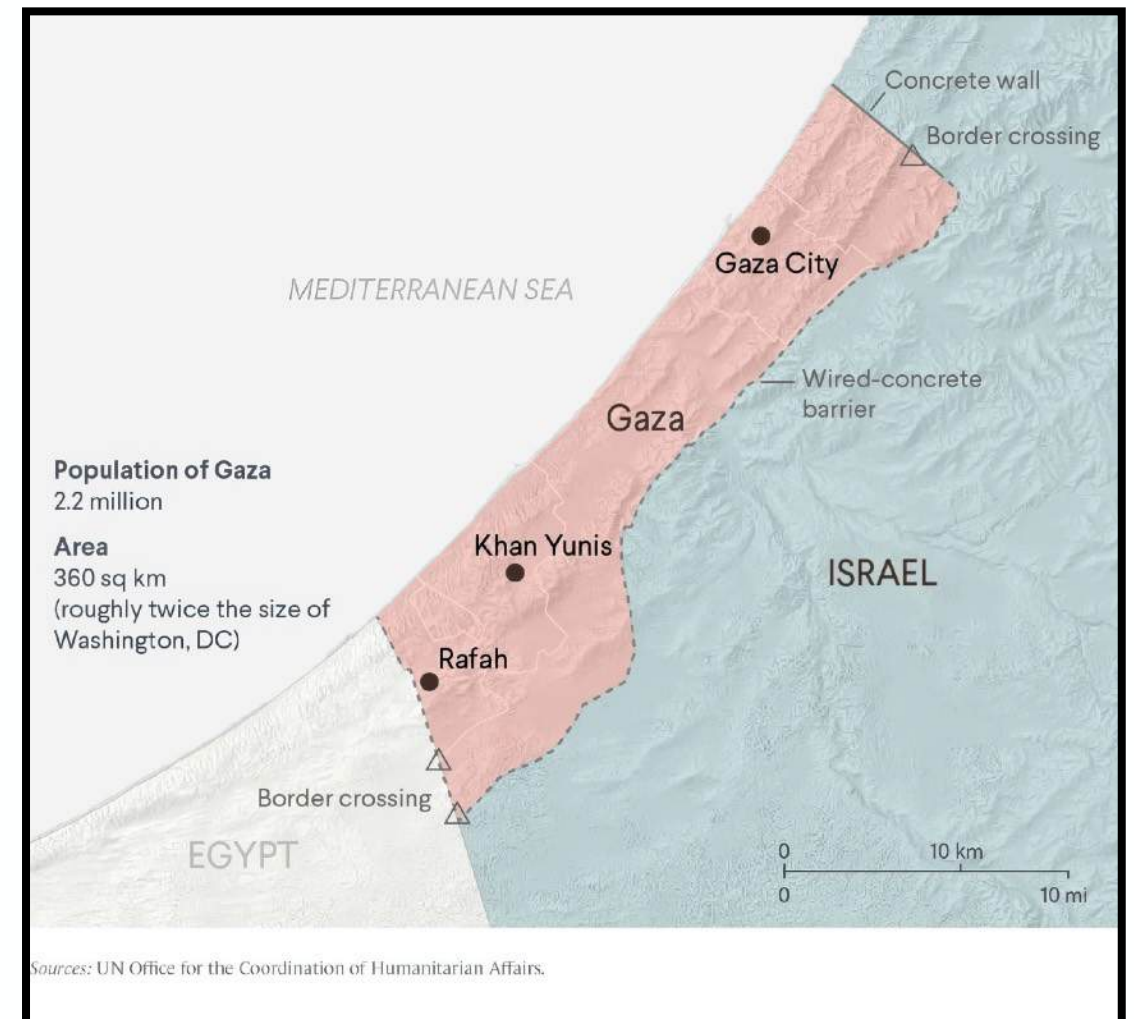


Gaza, population 2.2M, is 25 miles long and 6 miles wide



Gaza's borders:

West borders **Mediterranean Sea**
East, North borders **Israel**
South borders **Egypt**



Historical Control of Gaza

■ Prior to 1500s:

Egyptian Pharaohs, Babylonians, Philistines, Alexander the Great, Romans, Mongols, and Crusaders

■ 1500s-1917:

Napoleon and the 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:

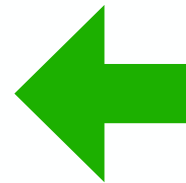
Six Day War leads to Israeli control over Gaza, although Israel withdrew from most of Gaza in 1994 as a result of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement (a treaty of the Oslo Accords)

■ 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 US, EU, UK, Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, and Paraguay as a terrorist organization because it prepares, plans, and commits acts of terror.**



The Iranian Terror Connection



Iran Supports Armed Islamic Groups Attacking Israel



Islamic Republic of Iran



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)



Hezbollah
(Lebanon)

Shia



HAMAS
(Gaza/West Bank)

Sunni



**Palestinian
Islamic Jihad**
(Gaza/West Bank)

Sunni



Houthis
(Yemen)

Shia



**Kataib
Hezbollah**
(Iraq)

Shia



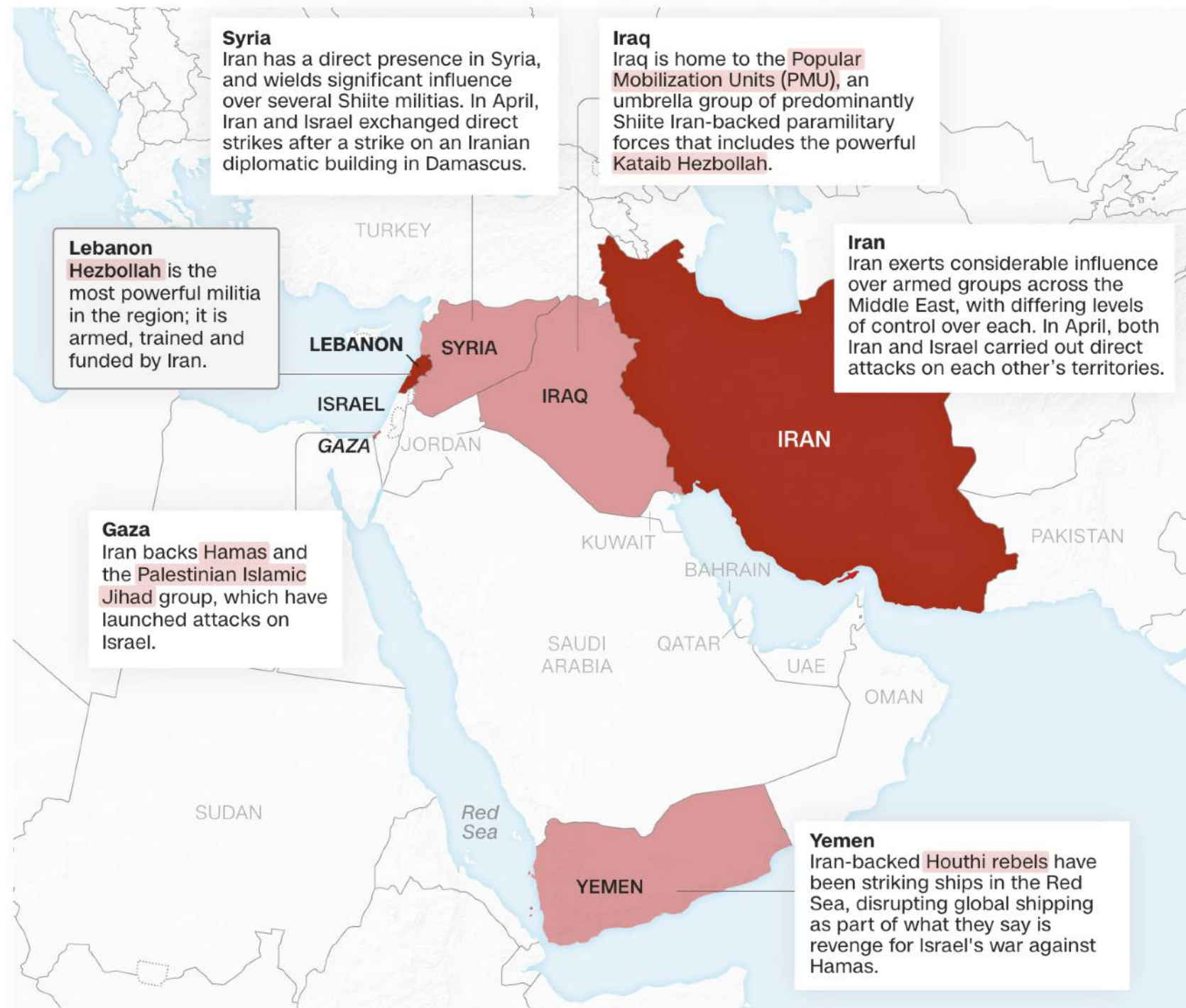
US Dept. Treasury Nov. 14 2023

“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.”



Areas with Iran-Backed Terrorist Groups in the Middle East

Iran-backed groups in the Middle East



Iran's Proxy in Lebanon: Hezbollah

- **Hezbollah is the Arab world's most significant paramilitary force** and is a hybrid Shia **political, military, and terrorist organization** capable of conducting attacks worldwide and claiming to have 100,000 fighters.
- The US State Department designated Hezbollah as a foreign terrorist organization in 1997. **More than 60 countries and organizations, including the EU, the Arab League, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, have also designated Hezbollah as a terrorist group** –either in part or in its entirety.
- Hezbollah's key focus:
 - A. preserving its strategic partnership with Iran
 - B. bolstering the Syrian regime
 - C. maintaining its own domestic power in Lebanon
 - D. opposing Israeli interests and driving US forces from the Middle East

US State Department, 2022: "**Iran continues to provide Hezbollah with most of its funding, training, weapons, and explosives**, as well as political, diplomatic, monetary, and organizational aid. **Iran's annual financial backing to Hezbollah – which has been estimated to be hundreds of millions of dollars annually** – accounts for the overwhelming majority of the group's annual budget."



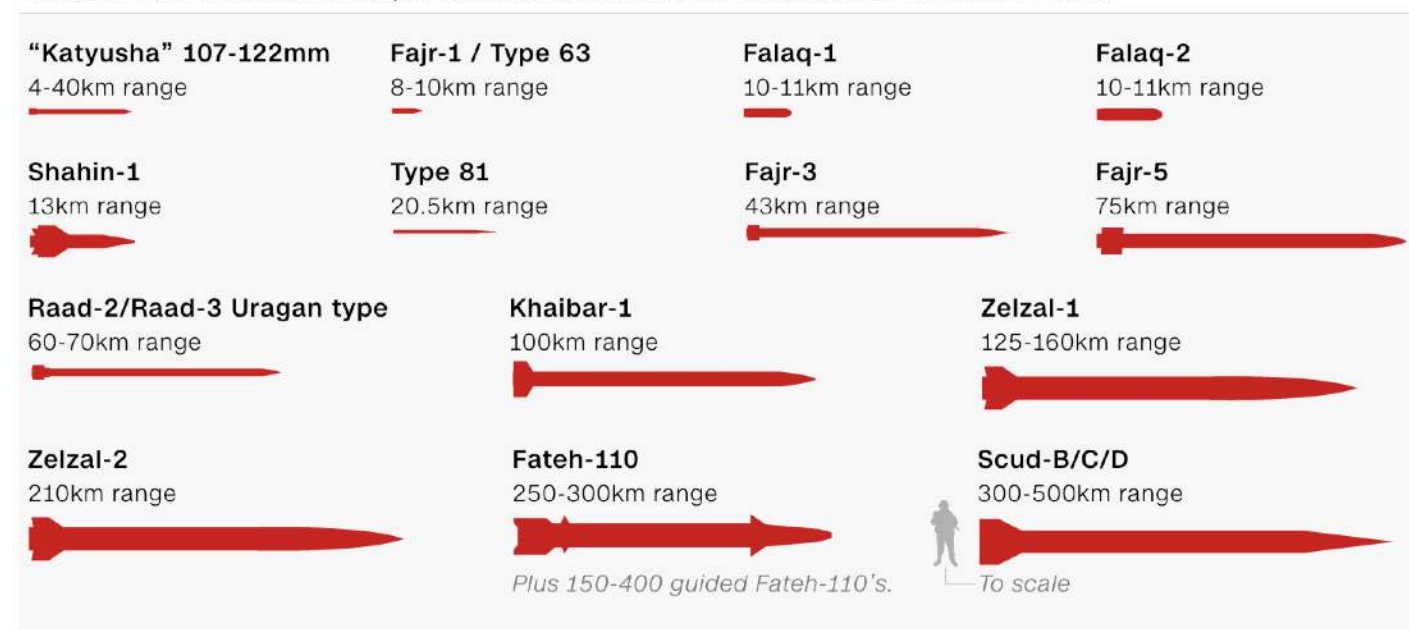
Hezbollah's Extensive Arsenal to Attack Israel

Hezbollah's extensive military arsenal

Hezbollah is probably the most heavily armed non-state group in the world, with an arsenal that is more sophisticated and destructive than Hamas. But it's still outmatched by Israel's military.

Rockets and Missiles 120,000-200,000

Hezbollah has continued to stockpile rockets and missiles since its last conflict with Israel in 2006.



Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)

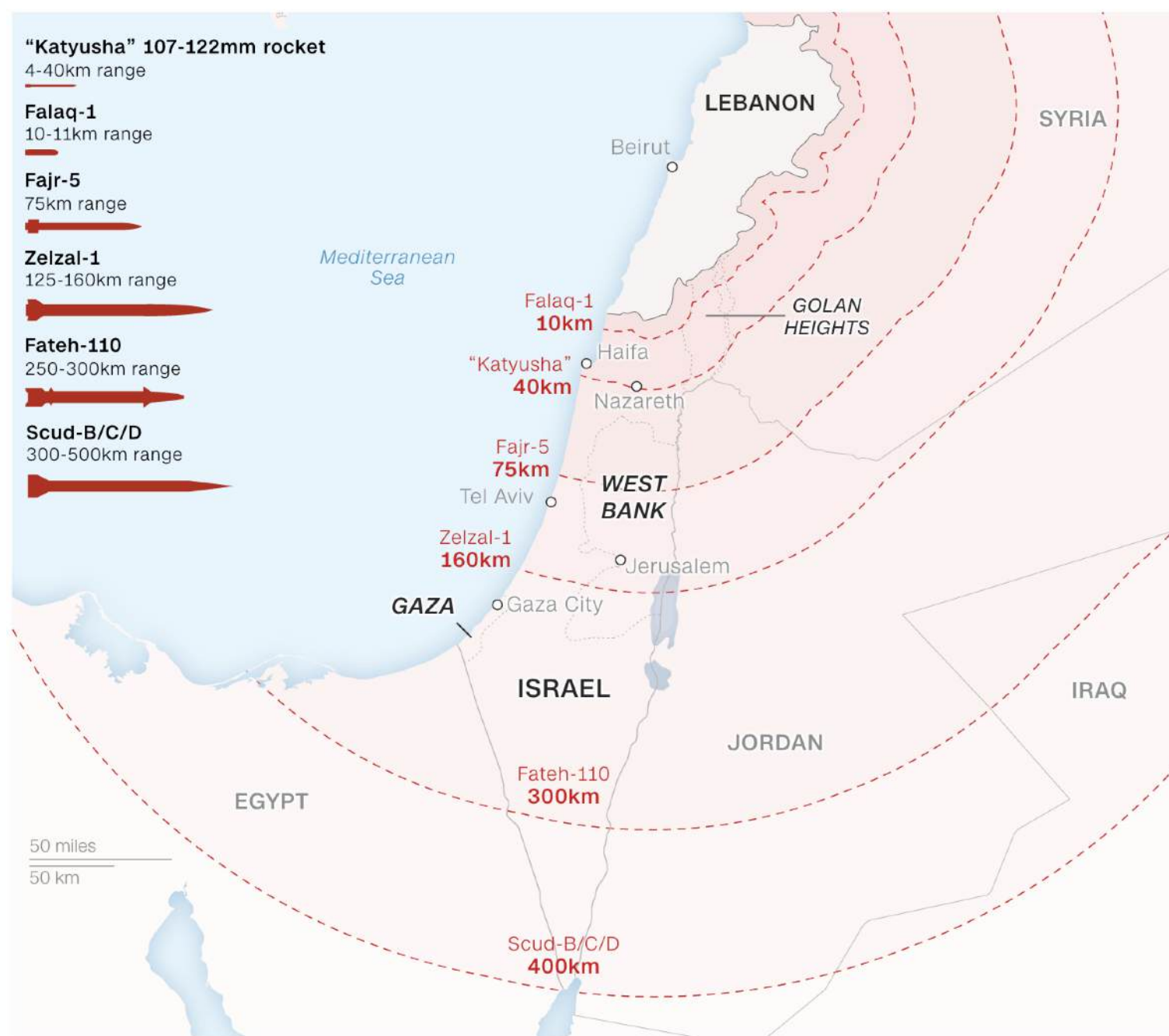
Hezbollah's UASs are almost entirely supplied by Iran and are used for surveillance and to attack targets.



Range of Hezbollah Missiles: All of Israel

Hezbollah are capable of striking all of Israel

Israel has a vastly superior military to Hezbollah, but the Iran-backed group boasts missiles with a range of up to 500km. These would have to bypass Israel's Iron Dome air defense system to cause damage.



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 Hezbollah that confront that entity along with us."

In Iran's words: Iran Funds HAMAS Military

Iranian official Mohammad Mehdi Shariatmadar said on a January 26, 2024 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



December 15, 2023 Statement by US Under Secretary of Treasury 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, Hezbollah-affiliated bank, Bayt Al-Mal, to move funds from Iran into Gaza."**



Iran Remains Committed to HAMAS Militarily

March 29, 2024



Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces (left) and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh (right) in Tehran on March 29, 2024

Iran's top military commander vowed unyielding support for the Palestinian cause, declaring Tehran's commitment to back it "with all its might." Mohammad Bagheri, Iran's Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, conveyed admiration to HAMAS' leader Ismail Haniyeh and described HAMAS' October 7 attack on Israel as "unprecedented, exceptional, and highly successful."

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"***



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 US produces approximately 21% of oil in the world, compared to Iran's 4%.
- **"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 riding high right now thanks to the fact Iran is on pace for near-record oil production this year, with production doubling from less than 2 million barrels per day in 2019 to 3.5 million barrels per day now. This represents **an over \$40 billion increase in revenues**"
- Choking Iranian oil production would "reduce the funds Iran has available to fund its terrorist proxies."

Politico: **"China buys about 90% of Iran's oil, including crude sold by the Quds Force, the paramilitary arm of the IRGC"**



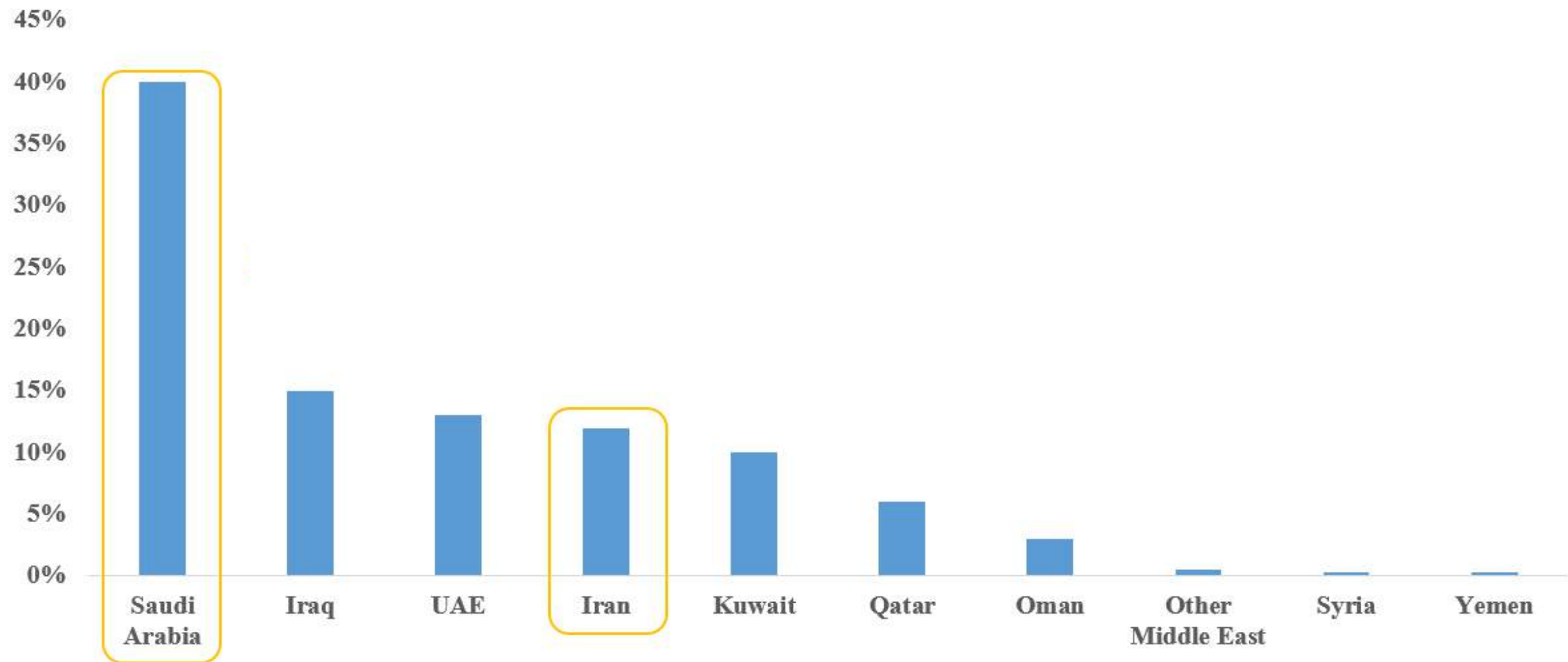
Saudi Arabia Produces 4X More Oil than Iran



Yale SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
Chief Executive Leadership Institute

Iranian Oil Easily Replaceable

Middle Eastern Oil Production By Country
(shown as % of total Middle Eastern oil production)



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 [release](#) of several political prisoners, among other issues. "

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Daniel Yergin, Best-Selling Author and Vice Chairman of S&P Global, wrote on November 15 in the Wall Street Journal: "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."



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

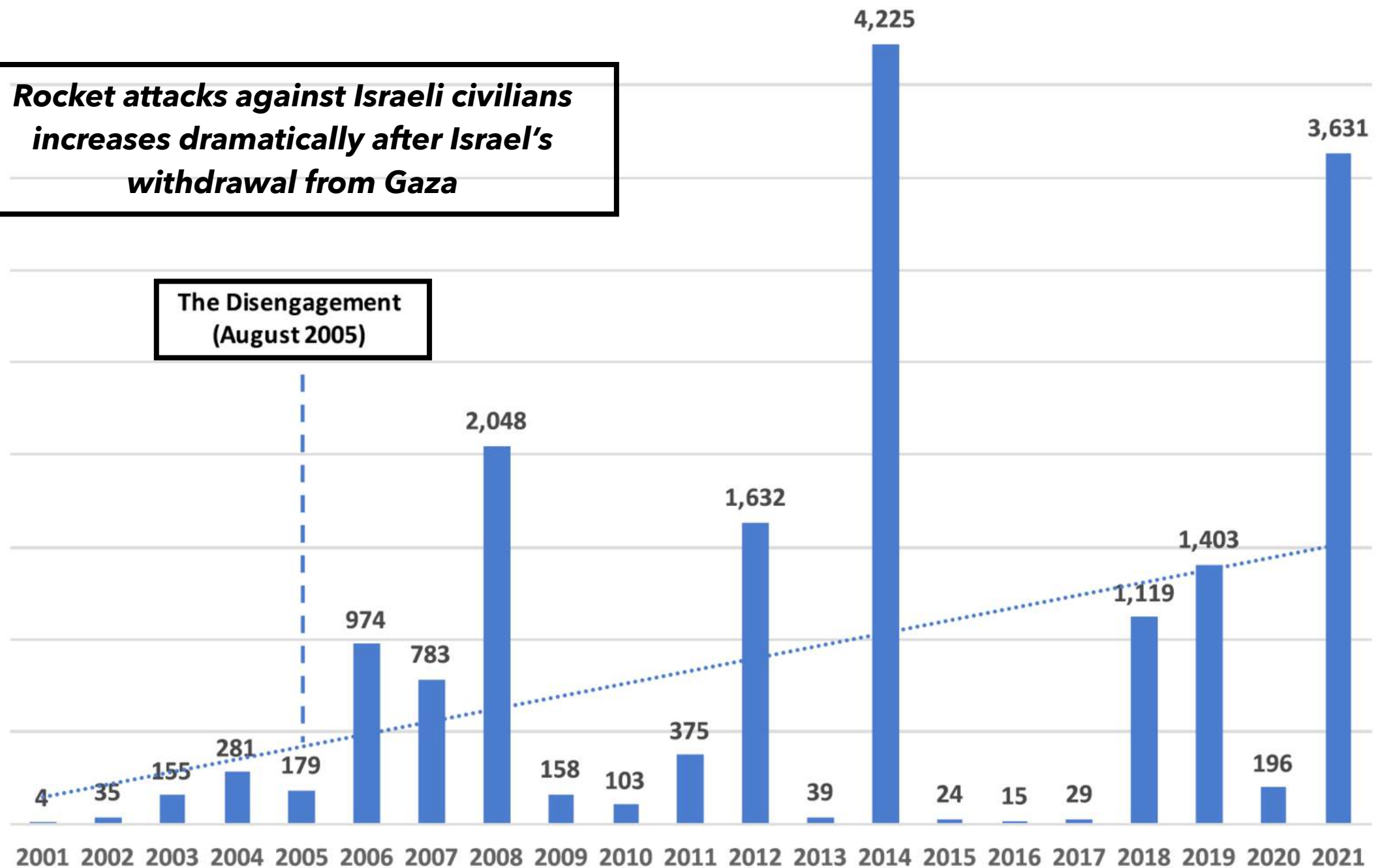


Figure 2. Number of rockets fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip by year.

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: "**Gas geoeconomics has strengthened the already emerging geopolitical alignment** between Greece, Cyprus, Israel, Egypt, and the Gulf States"

Times of Israel: "Natural gas from Israel's Leviathan, 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."

Israeli Natural Gas Trade Association: 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.

September 2020: 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 maritime deal 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

- September 2023: Nearing Saudi '**megadeal**' 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 **United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Israel**



Validation of HAMAS' Fear of Regional Cooperation

June 14, 2024



"They saw the resistance in Gaza, and according to our information, they planned to launch a preemptive strike against it, so that it would not interfere with these plans of theirs, and in particular the plans that are connected to Gaza: the Ben Gurion canal project, **the Haifa port north of Gaza, through which the India corridor is meant to pass... Could the India corridor pass through Haifa port while Hamas is in Gaza?** The Ben Gurion canal was meant to pass through the middle of Gaza. And Eilat... the NEOM project is just south of Palestine, in Saudi Arabia...**So something was about to happen, and we wanted to turn the tables on them, in order to say to them: Palestine is here to stay. So if we could go back in time, we would do it again, because the justifications still exist."**

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



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 **superiors did not heed 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."

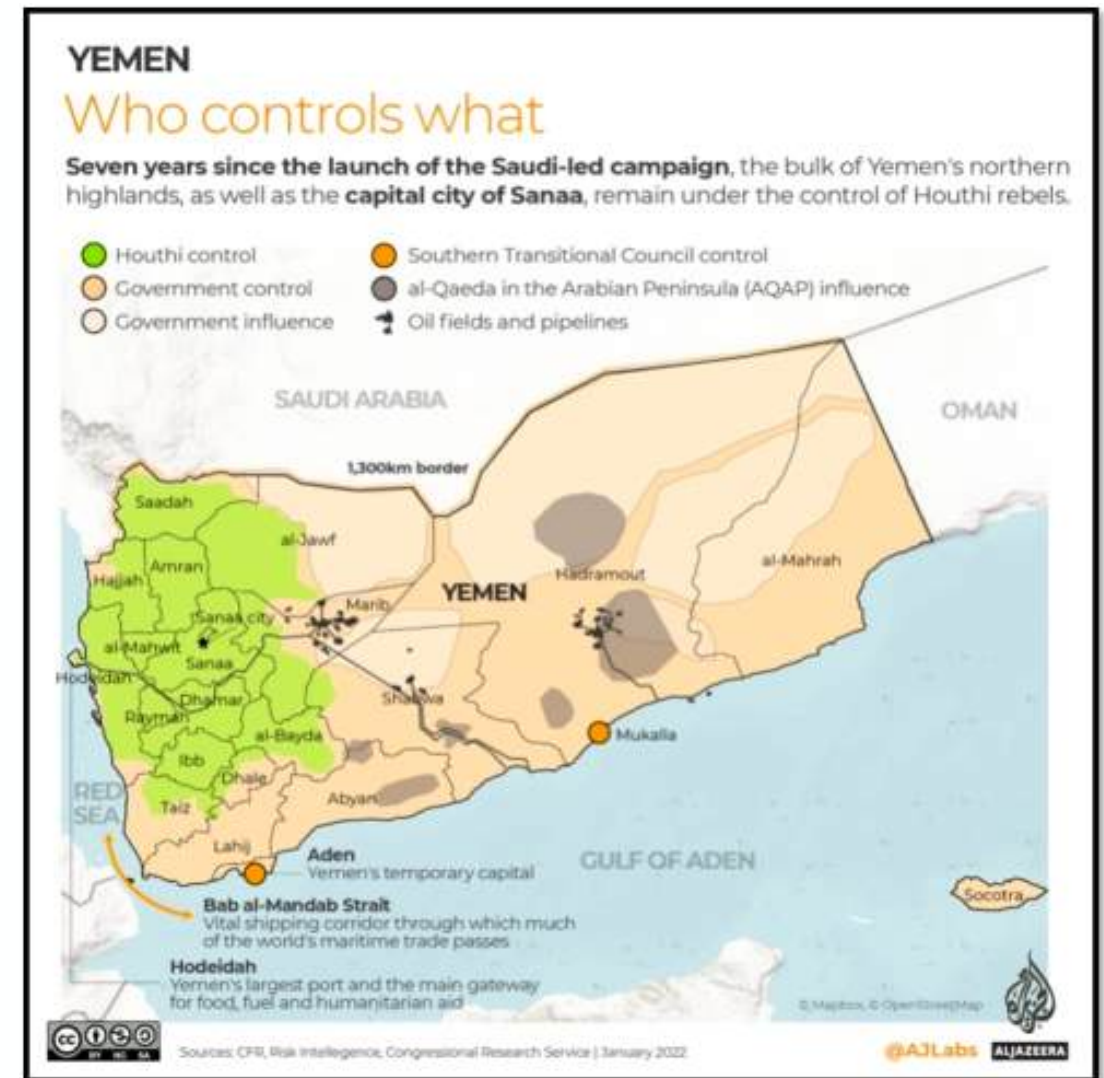


"We know that **Egypt has warned the Israelis three days prior that an event like this could happen,**" [House Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman Rep.] McCaul told reporters following a closed-door intelligence briefing on Wednesday for lawmakers about the Middle East crisis"



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.



الله أكبر
الموت لأمريكا
الموت لإسرائيل
اللعنة على اليهود
النصر للإسلام

Translation of the Houthi flag:

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

The October 7 HAMAS Massacre



How HAMAS Invaded Israel in One Hour

- Years of training and intelligence gathering (drone & human intelligence from Gazans working legally in Israel)
- Fired 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
- **Severed surveillance towers**, destroyed unmanned weapon towers, neutralized IDF tanks along border with armed drones, bombs, guns and RPGs
- **Breached fence in 120 places**, arrived by car, motorcycle, foot and paraglides
- **~3,000 terrorists invaded Israel** with extensive arms and vehicles, detailed maps and instructions, and GoPros up against ~600-650 IDF soldiers stationed along the border that day



The Unfathomable Massacre

HAMAS terrorists...

- **Murdered** soldiers on IDF bases and purposefully hunted down **innocent civilians**
- Indiscriminately tied up, tortured, murdered, beheaded, mutilated, burned alive, and raped (men and women) 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.*



36 children murdered by Hamas in October 7 massacre, over 30 still held hostage

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, **soldiers from Israel's combat units** (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, **terrorists who had infiltrated Israel on October 7 were killed or captured** (except 2 captured on November 6).

History Made: An all-female IDF tank crew 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.



Oz Davidian, a farmer in southern Israel, made ~20 trips to and from the Nova Music Festival **evacuating over 100 young people under fire.**



Off-duty soldier Staff Sgt. 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
- **Erez Crossing between Israel and Gaza**, normally used for Gazans to access medical treatment and employment in Israel

i24 News: "Caught on camera: HAMAS terrorists steal humanitarian aid, beat civilians"

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



Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 1

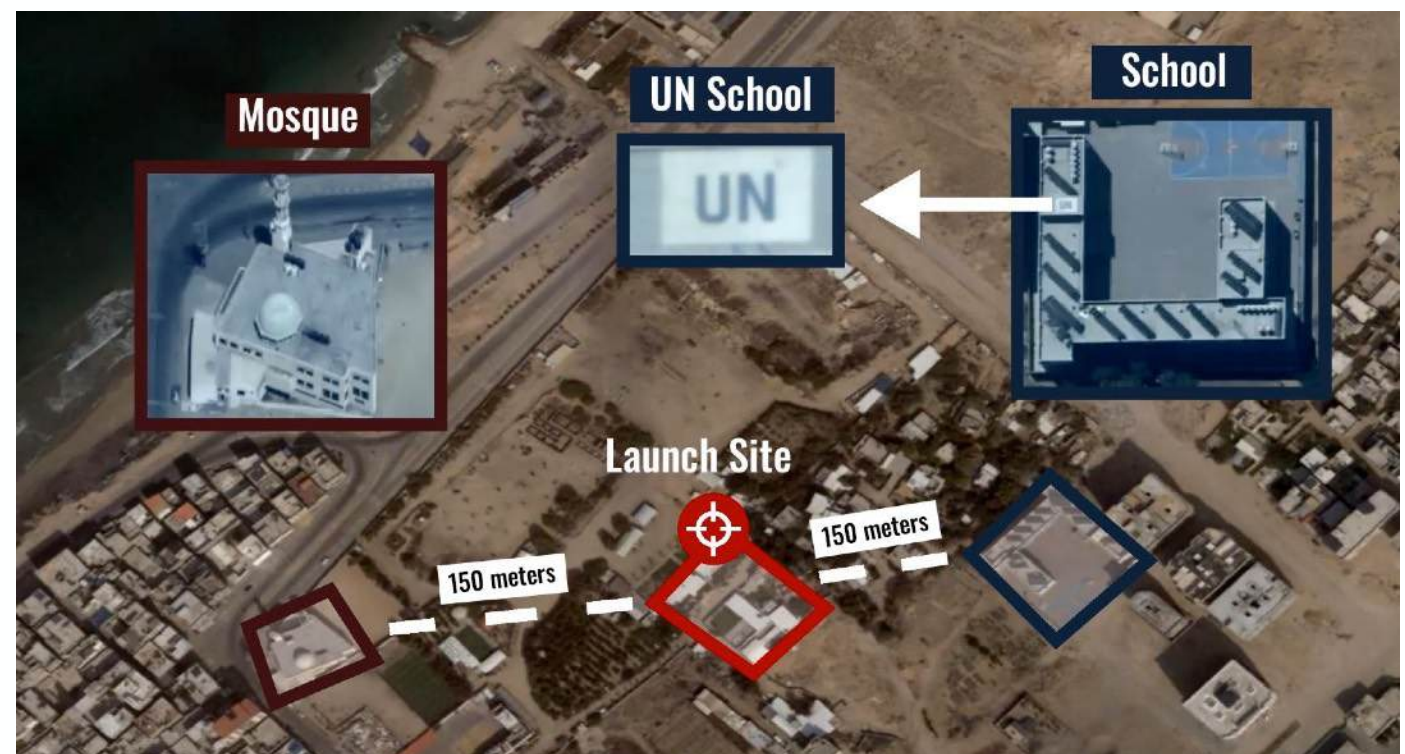
Oct. 8 - Oct. 13

Retaking the Homefront



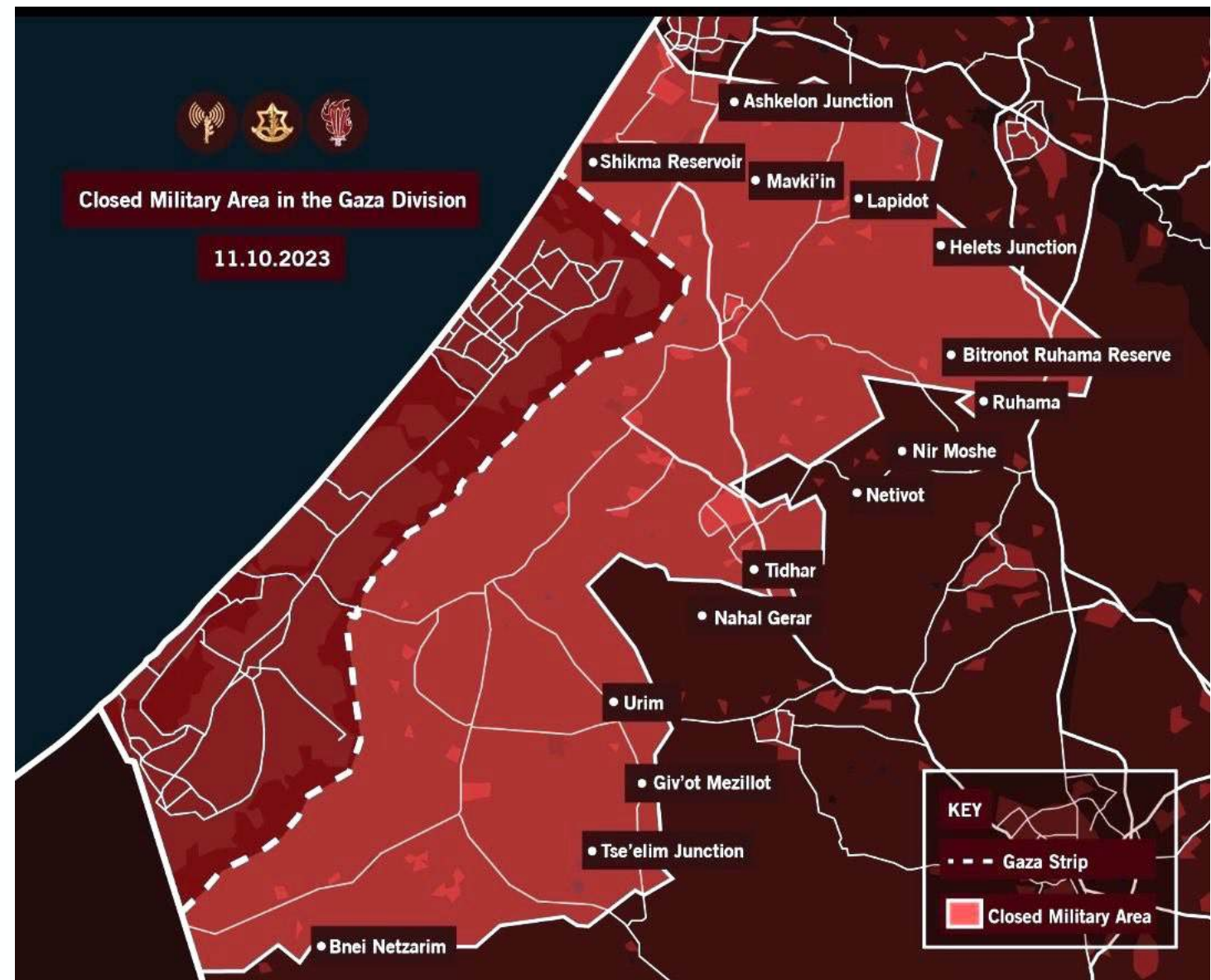
Israel Mourns & Prepares for War

- 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, **Hezbollah has an estimated 150,000 rockets and missiles** in its arsenal, as well as **100,000 fighters** 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: Don't."
 - 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 **a strong signal of deterrence** should any actor hostile to Israel consider trying to take advantage of this situation."*



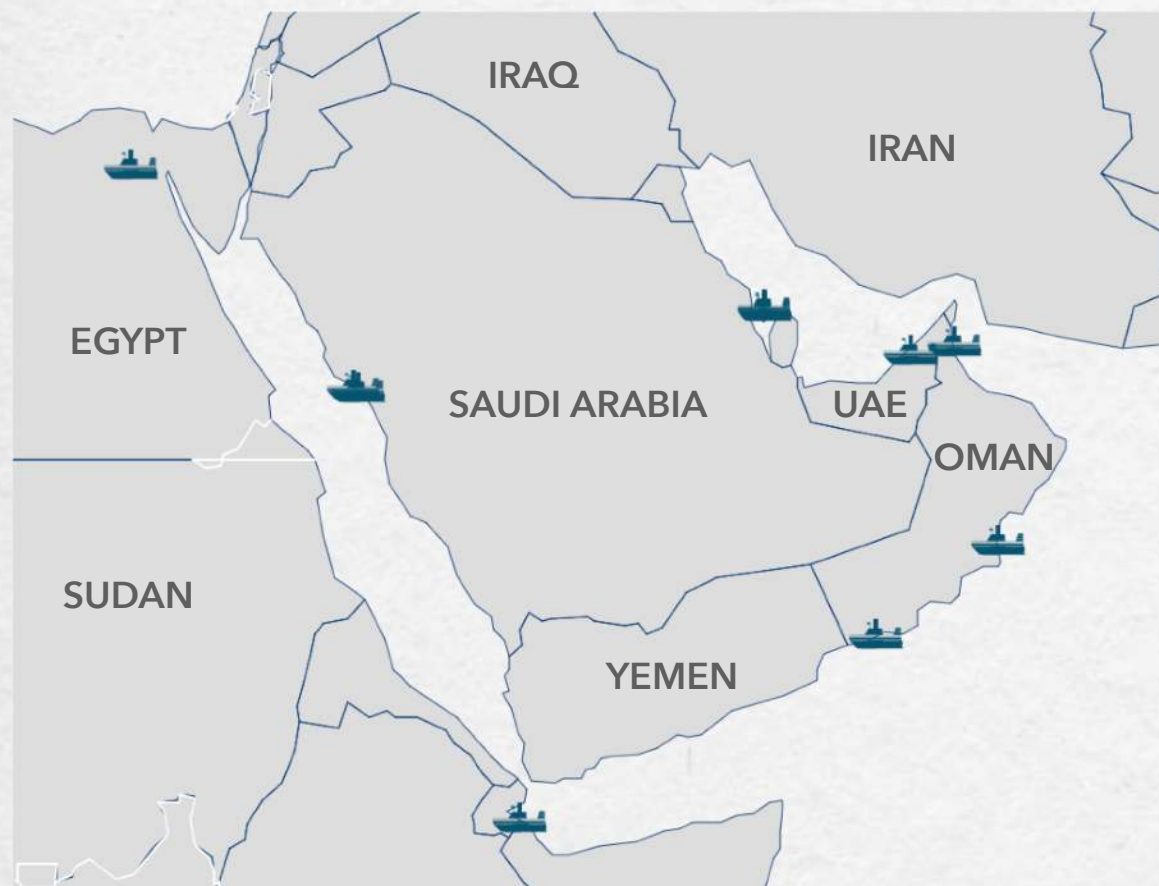
~40,000 US Soldiers Stationed in the Middle East

US Presence in the Middle East



INSS
המכון למחקרי ביטחון לאומי
THE INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES
אוניברסיטת תל אביב
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

US Naval Bases



Source: American Security Project.

US Air Force Bases



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**

KIDNAPPED



**Ariel
4-years-old
Israeli**

Kidnapped from
his home **by Hamas**

On October 7th, nearly **200 innocent civilians** were **abducted** from Israel into the Gaza Strip. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

More than 3,000 women, men, and children, ranging in age from 3 months to 85 years old, were **wounded, murdered, beaten, raped**, and brutally separated from loved ones **by Hamas**.

Take a photo of this poster and share it

**Please help bring them
home alive.**

#KidnappedFromIsrael



SCAN TO
JOIN THE
GLOBAL
EFFORTS



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

US Treasury announces **new 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 its proxies, including HAMAS and Hezbollah.



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 **HAMAS controlled Gaza Health Ministry** 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:** headlines around the world blame Israel, including the New York Times' homepage with the headline: "Israeli Strike Kills Hundred" 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.**



USS Carney
firing intercepts
on October 19



Translation of the Houthi slogan/flag:

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

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: IDF secures a humanitarian corridor for Gazan civilians to evacuate from Northern Gaza to Southern Gaza



Nov. 10: IDF secures a humanitarian corridor for Gazan civilians to evacuate 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 **Israel killed “thousands of terrorists.”**
- The IDF did confirm that **over 300 terrorists were captured alive in Gaza** 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: **IDF announces the death of Shani Louk** 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



Weapons lab found
hidden in a mosque
in Gaza



Weapons found
hidden in a
kindergarten 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 **US Air Force is flying surveillance drones over Gaza** 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 anti-ballistic 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



US MQ-9 Reaper surveillance drone

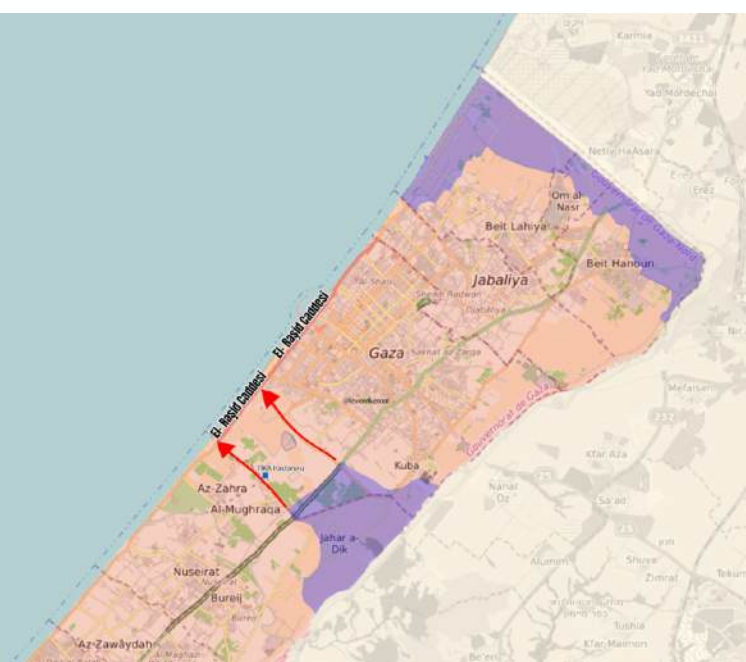


American and Israeli Deterrence Keeps Iran & Lebanon From Fully Joining HAMAS War

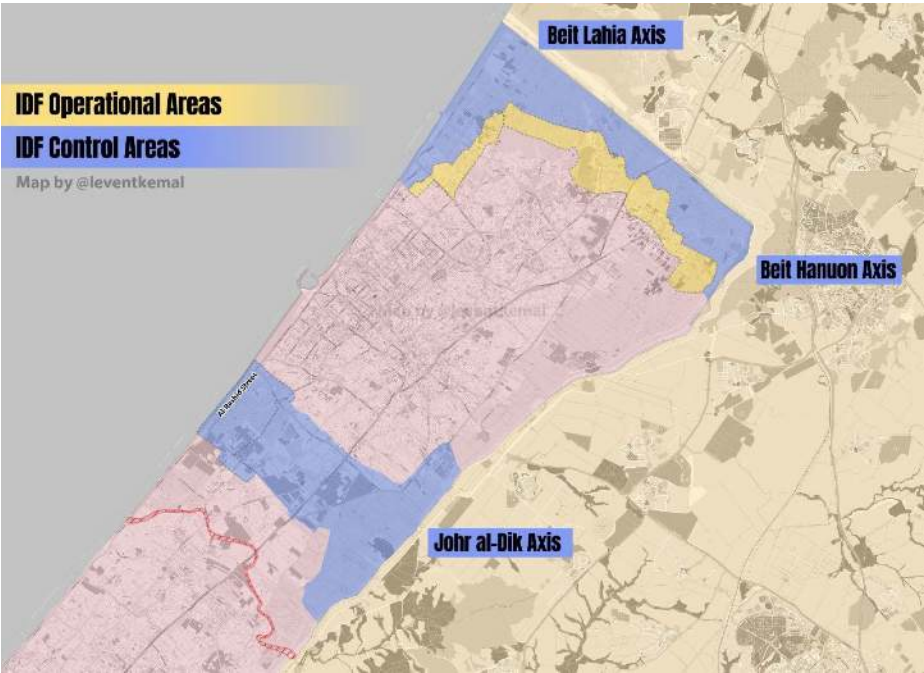
- In Lebanon, despite no calls by IDF to evacuate, **tens of thousands of Lebanese left Southern Lebanon** for northern parts of Lebanon, away from the border with Israel.
- There was **a gradual escalation in Hezbollah attacks from Lebanon on Israel** in the number of rockets and in the size of the 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 (Hassan Nasrallah) and Iran (Ali Khamenei) 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."**



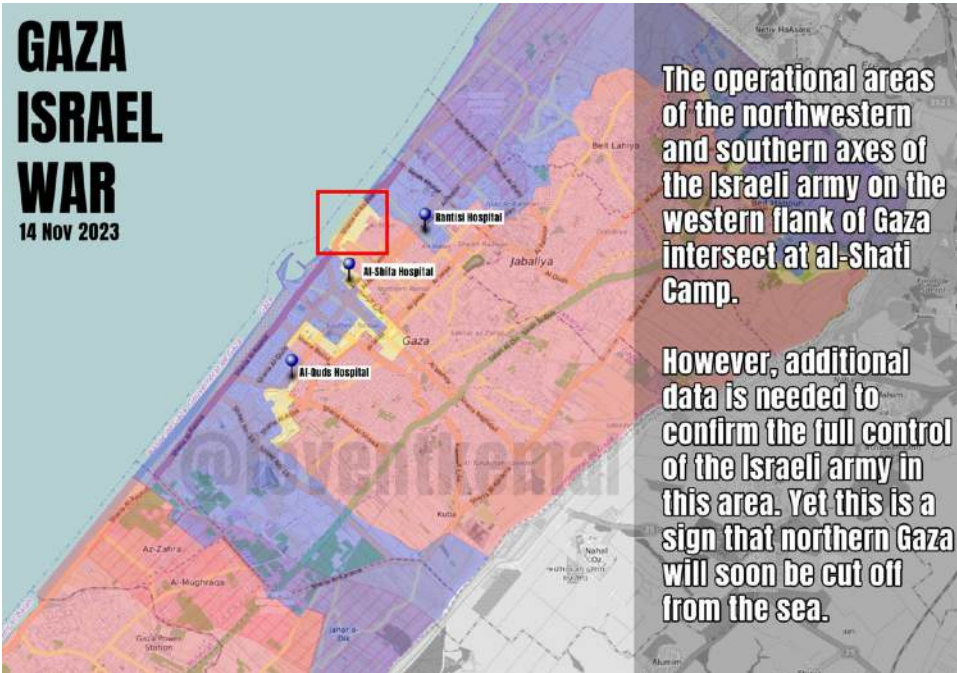
IDF Forces Progress Through Northern Gaza



October 31



November 2



November 14

Images sourced from [@LeventKemal](#)



November 14: Northern Gaza Secured by the IDF

The **Israeli military seized broader security control of northern Gaza on Tuesday November 14**, 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 **HAMAS had "lost control" of northern Gaza** 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 Heavy 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: Yemen's Houthi rebels hijack an Israeli-linked ship in the Red Sea and take 25 crew members hostage**, saying they hijacked the ship because of its 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

U.S. Central Command @CENTCOMArabic

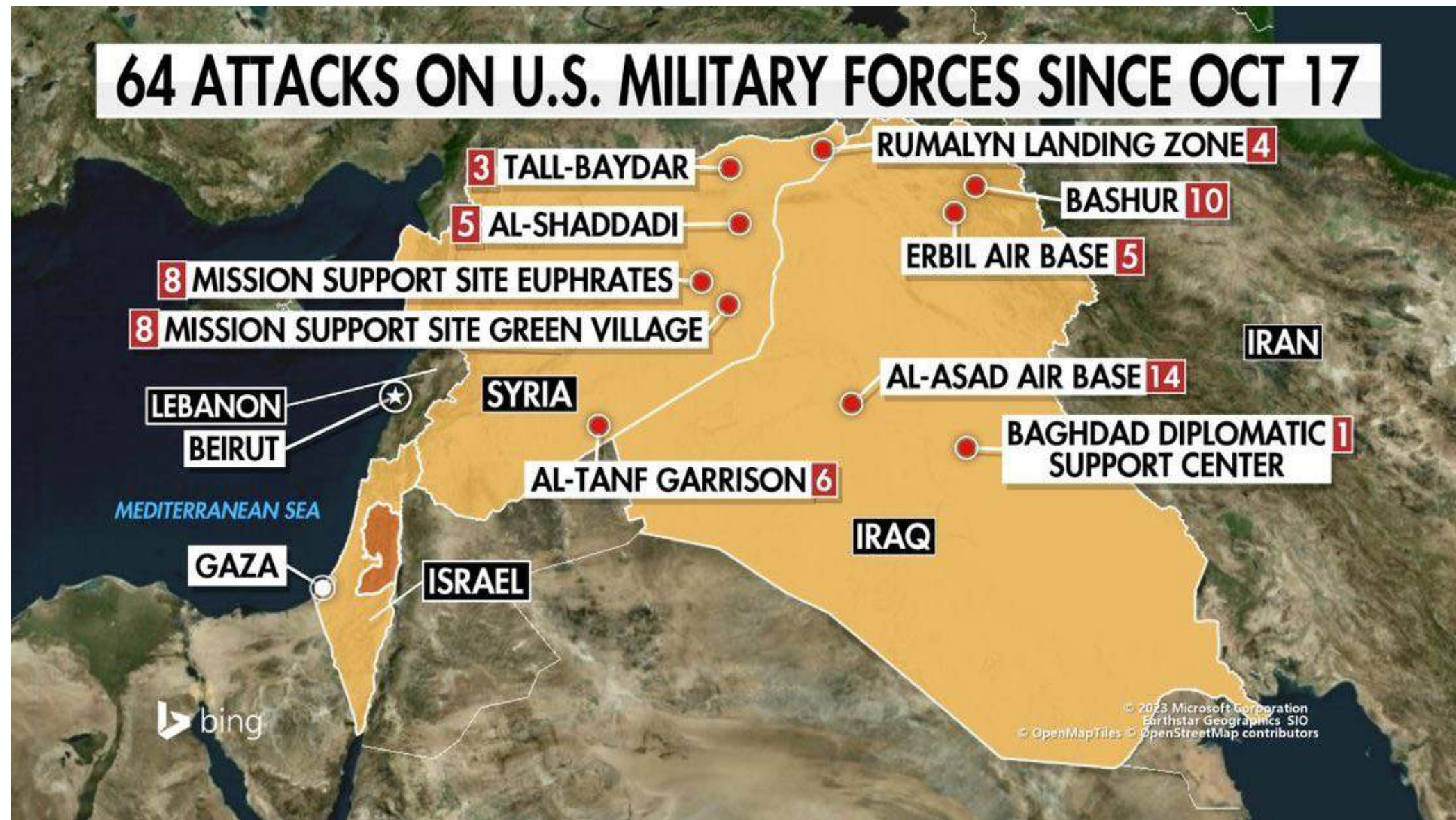
في صباح يوم 23 نوفمبر/ تشرين الثاني (بتوقيت اليمن)، أسقطت #مدمرة_الصواريخ_الموجهة #يو_إس_إس_توماس_هودنر (دي دي جي 116) عدة طائرات هجومية بدون طيار أحادية الاتجاه أطلقت من المناطق التي يسيطر عليها #الحوثيون في #اليمن. تم إسقاط الطائرات بدون طيار بينما كانت السفينة الحربية الأمريكية يو إس إس توماس هودنر في دورية في #البحر_الأحمر. لم تتعرض السفينة وطاقمها لأي ضرر أو إصابة.

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: **announcement of hostage agreement brokered by the US, Egypt, and State of Qatar**, 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 105 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**



Israel-HAMAS War: Phase 5

Dec. 1 - April 7

*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.”
- Keren Munder 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 branded and drugged**. The Aunt of hostage Eitan Yahalomi (12) told French TV that terrorists **beat him and forced him at gunpoint 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.**”



Released Hostages Share the Horrors of Captivity

- **Eitan Yahalomi, 12, was beaten** and HAMAS “put him alone in a cell with bars and he was left alone for 16 days in the custody of armed men from Hamas,” his mother recounted. When he cried, HAMAS “threatened him with a gun.” He was “only allowed to shower twice in 52 days, never slept on a mattress, and was beaten by terrorists.”
- The Israeli Health Ministry confirmed that **HAMAS drugged Israeli hostages with Klonopin, a tranquilizer, right before their release.**
- On March 26, former HAMAS hostage Amit Soussana gave the first detailed first-hand account of sexual assault to the New York Times. Two weeks after being beaten and dragged into Gaza on October 7 from her home, she was forced to undress at gun point. **She was beaten, groped, and then “dragged at gunpoint” to the child’s bedroom she was held captive in, where the terrorist sexually assaulted her.**



Amit Soussana was sexually assaulted while in HAMAS captivity.

HAMAS Ends Cease-Fire

IDF Continues Operation in Northern Gaza

- Early on Dec. 1 **HAMAS fired rockets into Israel prior to the 7am cease-fire conclusion** and failed to deliver a list of hostages to be released, which **effectively ended the cease-fire**. The **US blamed HAMAS for the collapse of the ceasefire.**
- **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 eastern areas of Northern Gaza 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

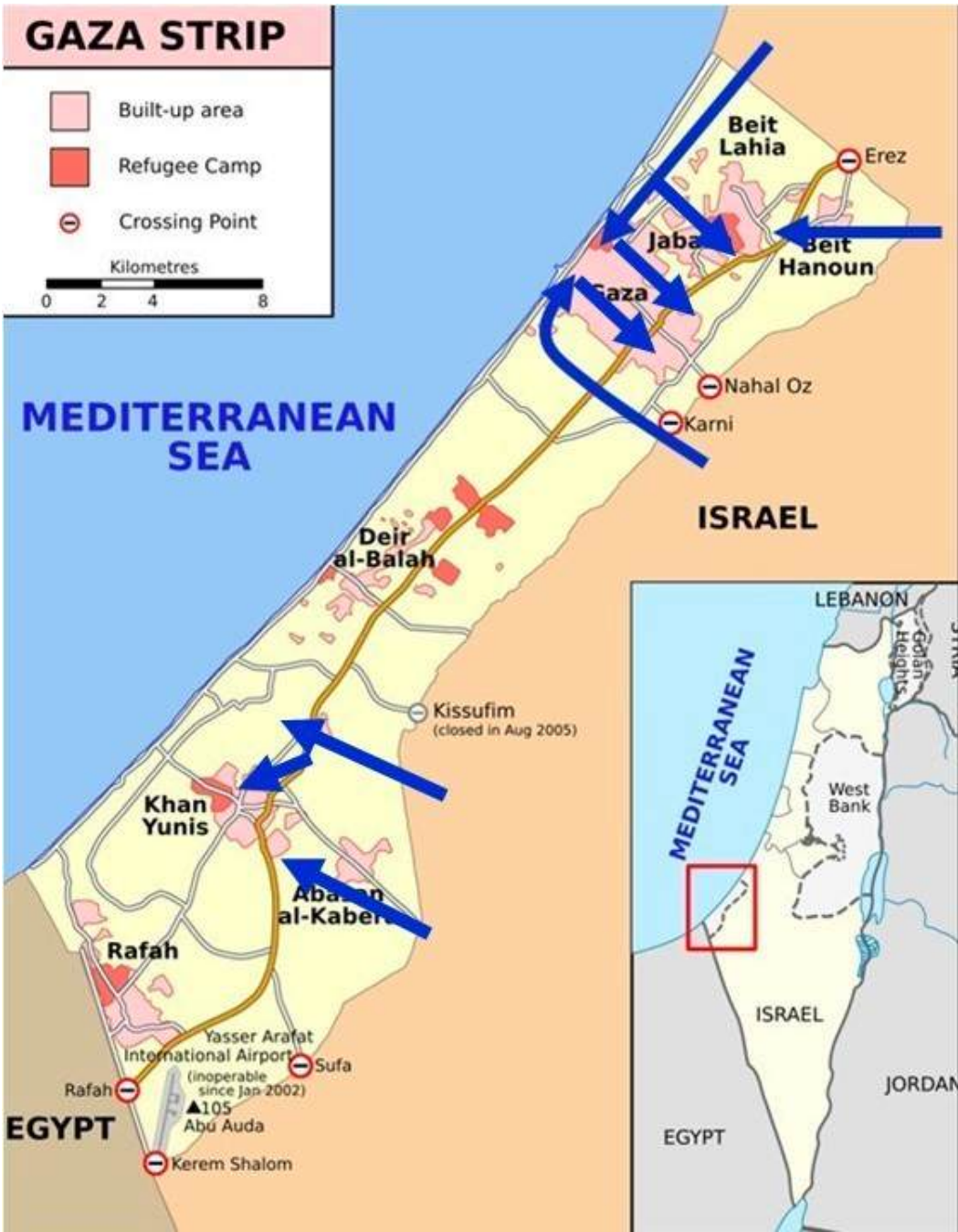
Pictured to the right, **the IDF apprehended ~80 terrorists** in the area of a hospital in Jabalya, alongside guns, RPGs, and bombs.



Continued Operation in Northern Gaza, Ground Invasion into Southern Gaza

December 2023

January 2024

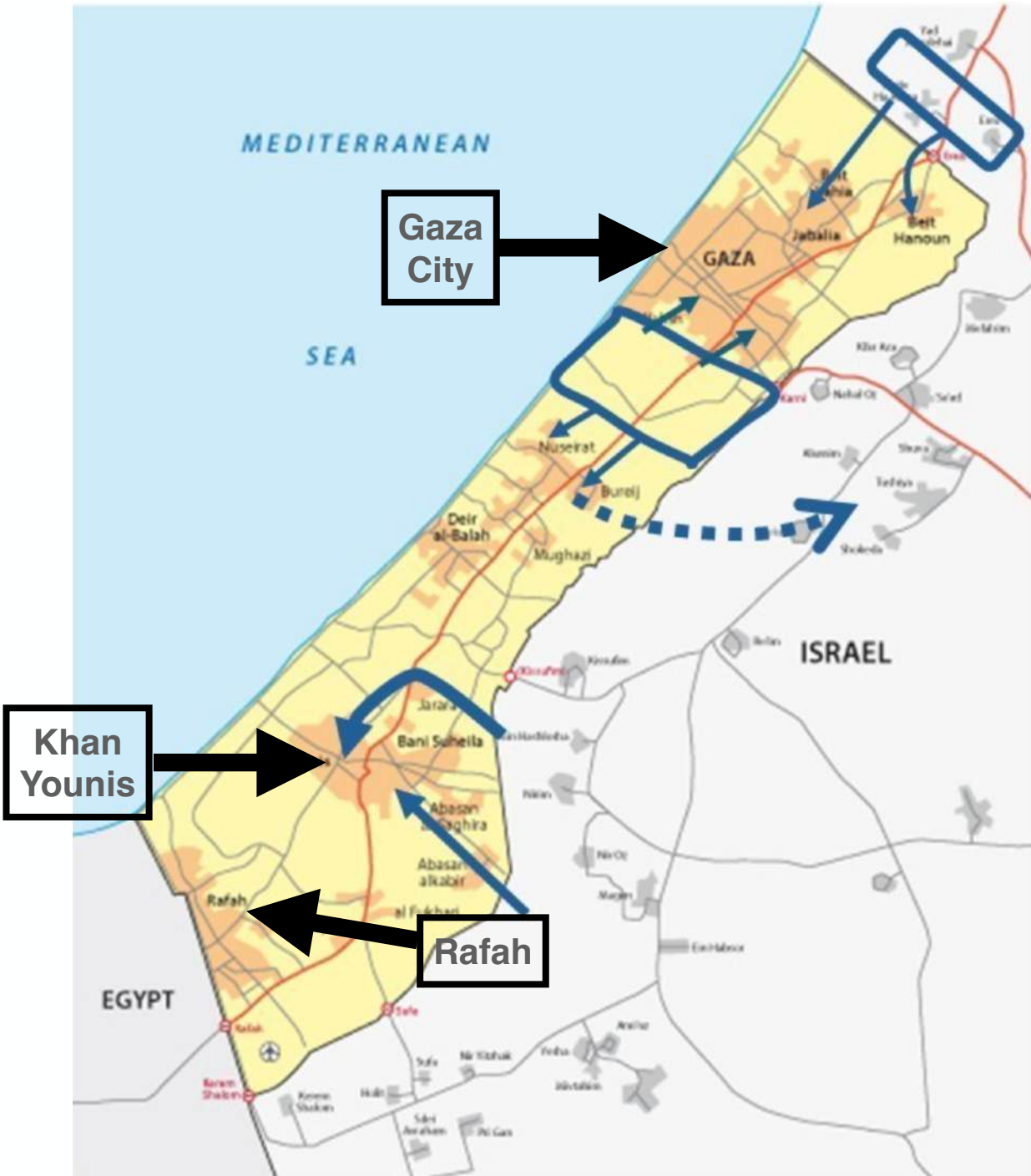


IDF entered Southern Gaza after completely encircling Northern Gaza

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

February 2024



March 2024



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



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](#):

Assassinations in Gaza

■ Marwan Issa - HAMAS' #3 leader in Gaza

- He ascended the HAMAS military ranks and served since 2012 as the #2 to Mohammad Deif, the leader of HAMAS' military wing (Qassam Brigades), in his capacity as Deputy Commander of HAMAS military wing. He previously spent time in both Israeli and Palestinian Authority prisons.
- As Deputy Commander of HAMAS military wing, Issa was the right-hand man to Deif, is believed to run many of Hamas's day-to-day operations. He served on both the HAMAS military council and in its political office and helped plan the October 7 massacre.
- With Deif spending much of his life incognito, Issa helped run logistical operations for HAMAS' al-Qassam Brigades.
- Israel attempted to assassinate him in 2006, 2014, and 2021. He was successfully targeted on March 10.
- Faiq Mabhouh, Head of HAMAS' Internal Security Operations Directorate
 - His brother, Mahmoud Mabhouh, was in charge of weapons procurement for HAMAS and was assassinated in Dubai in 2010

Marwan Issa
Deputy Chief of HAMAS Military



Onwards Towards Rafah

IDF evacuation orders in southeastern Gaza suggested forward movement towards Rafah

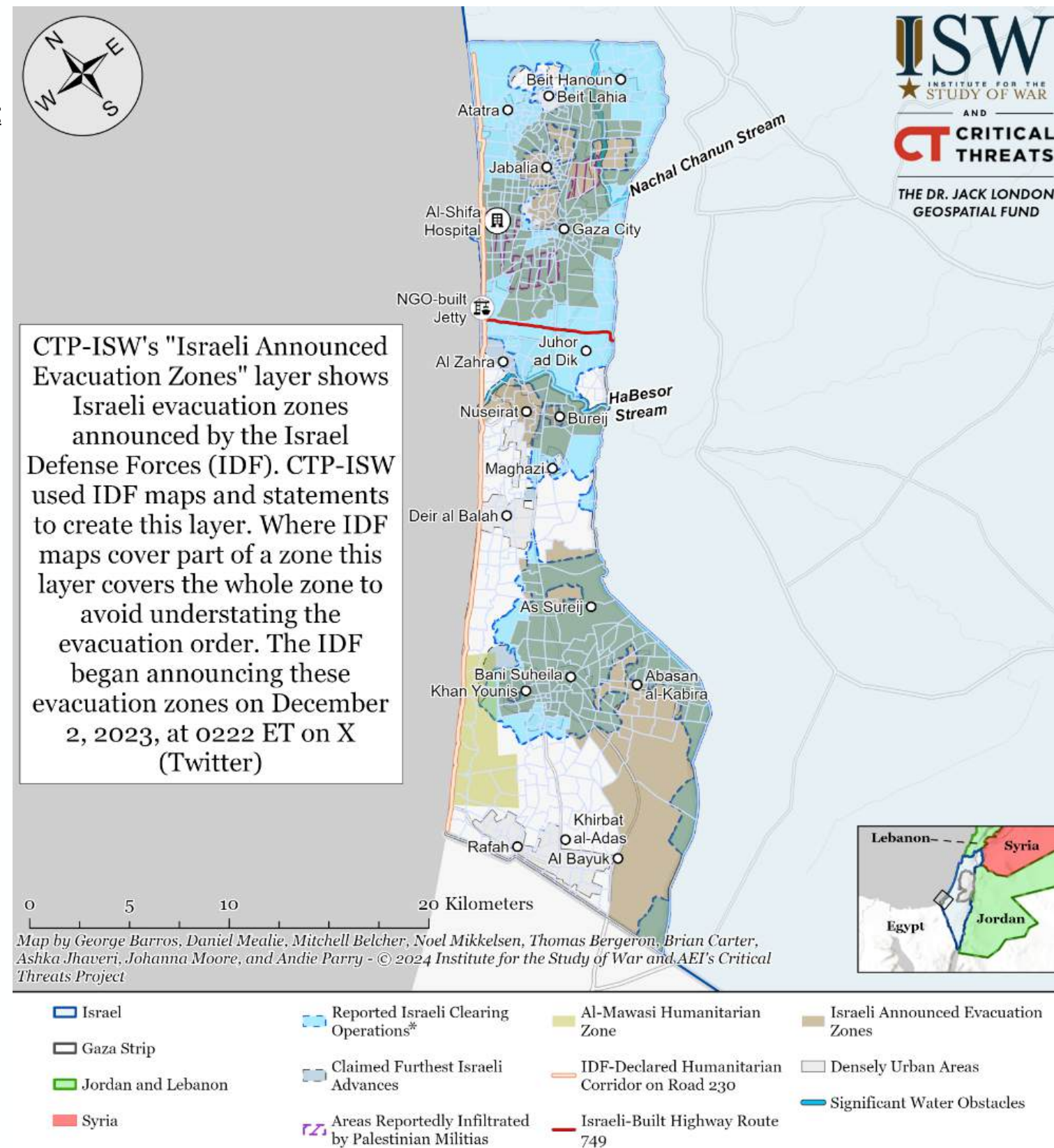
Feb. 1: Defense Minister Gallant warned that Israel "**might expand combat to Rafah**" after focusing on Khan Younis, southern Gaza's largest city."

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."

Feb. 21: IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi and Israeli Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) Director Ronen Bar visit Cairo to meet Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel to discuss a Rafah operation

March 9: Minister Gantz said: "If by Ramadan our hostages are not home, the **fighting will continue to the Rafah area.**"

March 22: PM Netanyahu said: "**We have no way to defeat HAMAS without going into Rafah** and eliminating the rest of the [HAMAS] battalions there."



Hezbollah Escalates Israel-Lebanon Border Conflict

- While Hezbollah ceased fire against Israel 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 **“an overwhelming chance of a second front opening up in the North.”**



Hezbollah Escalates Israel-Lebanon Border Conflict

- **January 2, 2024, Deputy Chairman of HAMAS Saleh Al-Aroui was assassinated in Beirut.** He was one of HAMAS' "most important political leaders and operational commanders. Aroui 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, Hezbollah attacked the IDF's Northern Command HQ with attack 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

*Deputy HAMAS Chairman
Saleh Al-Aroui*



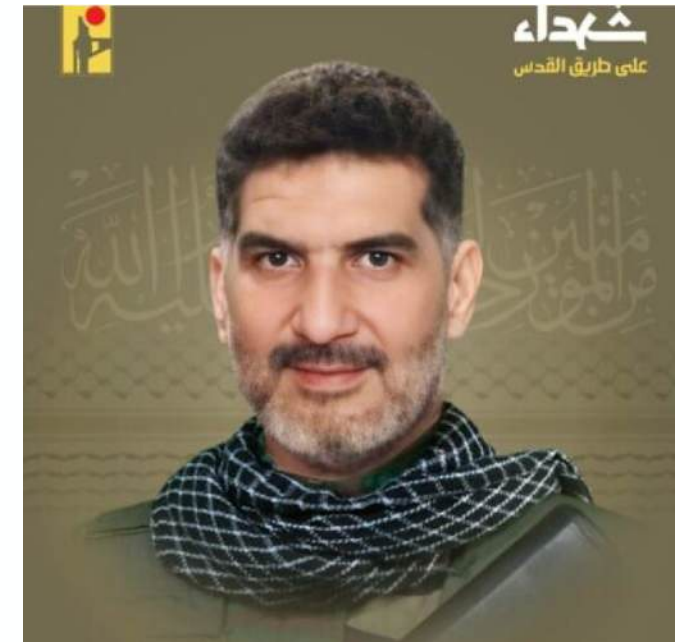
*Hezbollah Commander
Wissam al-Tawil with
Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani*



Hezbollah Escalates Israel-Lebanon Border Conflict

- March 13: IDF drone strike eliminated Hadi Mustafa, senior HAMAS operative who directed terror attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets around the world.
- March 29, IDF assassinated Ali Naim, the Deputy Commander of Hezbollah's rocket unit while in a car in Tyre, Lebanon 13 miles from the Israeli border.
- On many days, Hezbollah has fired up to 100 short-range rockets at Israel. In turn, Israel has struck Hezbollah targets as deep as 60 miles inside Lebanon.
- On March 27, the IDF completed a week long training for commanders of the Northern Command in preparation for war against Hezbollah.

*Ali Naim, Deputy Commander of
Hezbollah's Rocket Unit*



Senior Israeli official, March 28: "**Achieving the strategic goal of the return of northern residents to their homes requires a ground war.** We will do that after Rafah, not simultaneously,"

Hezbollah Escalates Israel-Lebanon Border Conflict

- Sample day: Wednesday March 27
 - **Israeli airstrike 3 miles from the border killed 7 terrorists** from the Palestinian al-Jama'a al-Islamiyya group which was planning an imminent infiltration attack.
 - **Hezbollah launched 30 rockets in response** at Kiryat Shmona community in Israel.
 - IDF later found a **Hezbollah drone that crashed inside Israel** near Rosh Hanikra and then **bombed terrorists inside Lebanon** in Teir Harfa
 - This follows **a pattern of Hezbollah sending Palestinian groups rather than its own people to carry out infiltration attempts, instigating a response by the IDF**. Then, Hezbollah responds to the IDF's response with rockets on an Israeli town or military base.
 - Separately, the IDF's 36th Division conducted a seminar in **preparation for a possible ground offensive in Lebanon**.



More American Support Arrives to the Region



US Announcements

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
- March 22: Secretary Blinken

- 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**



US General Kurilla meets
IDF Chief of Staff Halevi in Israel 12/15/23



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. 13: US Dept. of Treasury **imposed a 4th round of sanctions on HAMAS** since October 7, **targeting a network of HAMAS finance officials in Gaza, the West Bank, Turkey, and Lebanon, including several members of the HAMAS Political Bureau.**
- 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 **USS Ford aircraft carrier strike group would leave the Middle East**, 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.

More American Sanctions and Support to the Region



US Announcements

- 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.
- 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.**



More American Sanctions and Support to the Region



US Announcements

- 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.
- March 6: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned two companies owning and operating **two vessels that shipped Iranian commodities** on behalf of Iran's IRGC Quds Force backed Houthi financier.
- March 15: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned a company owning and operating **a vessel that shipped Iranian commodities to China** on behalf of Iran's IRGC Quds Force backed Houthi financier.
- March 26: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned 6 entities, two tankers, and one individual involved with **Iranian commodity sales to China supporting the Houthis and crypto-currency funding of Hezbollah.**
- March 27: US Dept. of Treasury, alongside the UK, **imposed a 6th round of sanctions on HAMAS** since October 7, **targeting a network of HAMAS-affiliated social media campaigns "GazaNow" and its founder Mustafa Ayash, and other partners**



An Emboldened Iran Pursues Nuclear Weapons

Dec. 18: 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 Iran-backed 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 US Special Operations drone strike.

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, 1 Dead

- 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 escorted out under fire from HAMAS to an IDF helicopter inside Gaza that flew them to a hospital in Israel
- **April 6: IDF recovers the body of hostage Elad Katzir in Southern Gaza who was murdered while in captivity**



Fernando Simon Marian reunites with his family in Israel



Louis Har reunites with his family in Israel

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.



IDF Retakes Shifa Hospital Complex

- On Monday March 18, the **IDF began a two-week operation to retake Shifa Hospital** complex after intelligence suggested that **senior HAMAS terrorists had regrouped inside the hospital**. The first operation there occurred in November.
- **CNN** reported that its sources inside the hospital claimed “about 400 to 500 Hamas and Islamic Jihad members and their families arrived at the hospital in mid-March. Some of them appeared to be members of Hamas’ political branch, while others were armed militants.”
- Since March 18, HAMAS and other Palestinian terrorist groups at Shifa conducted over 70 attacks on Israeli forces inside and around Shifa Hospital complex.
- The **IDF killed ~200 terrorists in and around Shifa Hospital** complex while the terrorists were firing at IDF soldiers, including **many senior HAMAS and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists and many terrorists who were personally involved in the October 7 massacre**.
- The IDF killed Raad Thabet, a top-ten HAMAS commander in charge of recruitment and procurement, as well as two senior terrorists who had been released by Israel in a previous deal with HAMAS.



IDF Retakes Shifa Hospital Complex

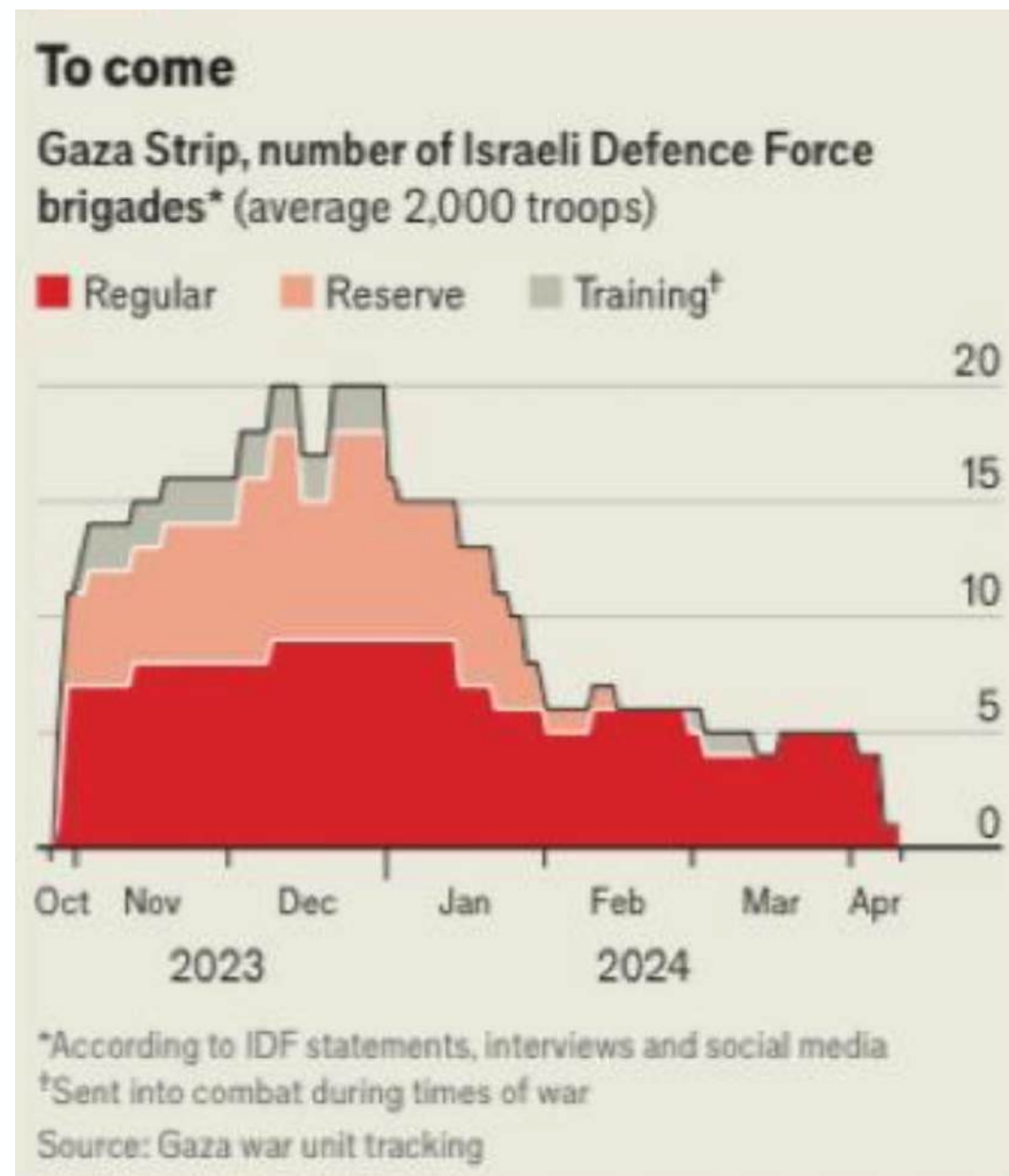
- US National Security Advisor confirmed on March 18 that "HAMAS came back into Shifa."
- The IDF interrogated more than 500 terrorist suspects (of 900 suspects detained) from Shifa Hospital complex. Over **500 of the suspects captured were confirmed members of terror groups.**
- During the operation, the IDF distributed food, water, and over 10,000 medical supplies, as well as creating a new treatment area for patients of the hospital and fixing the electricity.
- The IDF uncovered an arsenal of weapons at Shifa Hospital, including an array of weapons concealed inside pillows, hospital beds, ceilings, and walls including mortar shells, explosives, sniper rifles, pistols, and ammunition. **The IDF also found over 11,000,000 NIS (~\$3M) in cash held by HAMAS.**
- HAMAS itself claimed it fired mortars at Shifa Hospital and it committed a suicide bombing, causing extensive damage to the hospital. The IDF evacuated 6,200 civilians sheltering at Shifa Hospital throughout the operation.

Weapons discovered in the Shifa Hospital maternity ward



April 7 Withdrawal of IDF Troops from Southern Gaza

- 6 months after the war began, IDF's 98th Division withdrew from Khan Younis in Southern Gaza



Phase 5: UNRWA

A Compromised Aid Organization



UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

- Background: UNRWA was established during the 1948 war between Israel and its Arab neighbors. **It was supposed to receive the approximately 700,000 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.
- Education: 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 UN report 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. **Under UNRWA's headquarters in Gaza, a massive HAMAS complex was discovered by the IDF** - 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 built hundreds of miles of tunnels 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. The IDF declassified an intercepted call with an UNRWA teacher admitting to his participation on October 7.



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 CBS News, 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."**



Cables running from UNRWA headquarters above ground down into underground HAMAS data center.



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

UNRWA Funding



*The European Commission is providing 50 million euros of its 2024 funding to UNRWA and will provide the remaining 32 million euros depending on the findings of current investigations.

Note: “Paused or reviewing funding” includes governments that have paused funding or declared that future funding will depend on the findings of current investigations.

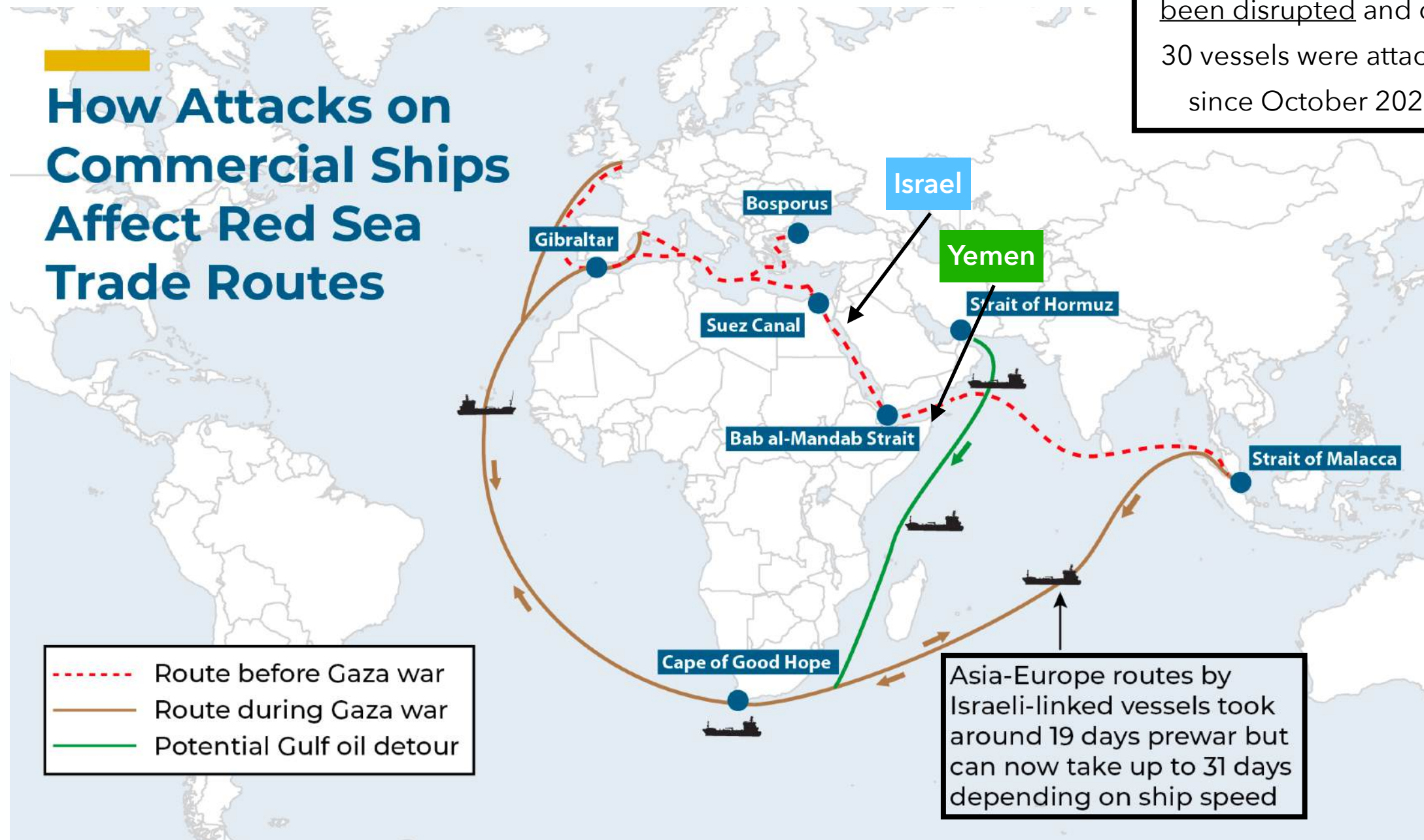
Phase 5: Escalating Red Sea Attacks

Increasing Houthi Conflict



Houthi Attacks in the Red Sea Increase

How Attacks on Commercial Ships Affect Red Sea Trade Routes



Secretary Blinken: **"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

- Dec. 1: **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 **Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd 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.
- Dec. 18: **US led efforts to create an international coalition to protect ships** entering the Red Sea, called Operation Prosperity Guardian, 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.” Secretary of Defense also hosts a virtual ministerial 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.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

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

- 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
- Dec. 9: French Navy shot down **two Houthi drones** in the Red Sea
- Dec. 11: **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



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- 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.
- Jan. 16: **Houthis launched a missile and struck a merchant ship.**
- Jan. 17: **Houthis launched a UAS on an American bulk carrier merchant ship.** No injuries and some damage was reported. **US 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.
- Jan. 26: **USS Carney intercepted a missile** fired at it by Houthis. A **Houthi-fired missile struck and damaged an oil tanker** in the Gulf of Aden. A joint firefighting effort included the US, French, and Indian navies.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Jan. 27: **US Forces preemptively struck a Houthi missile** aimed at the Gulf of Aden and was prepared to launch from Yemen.

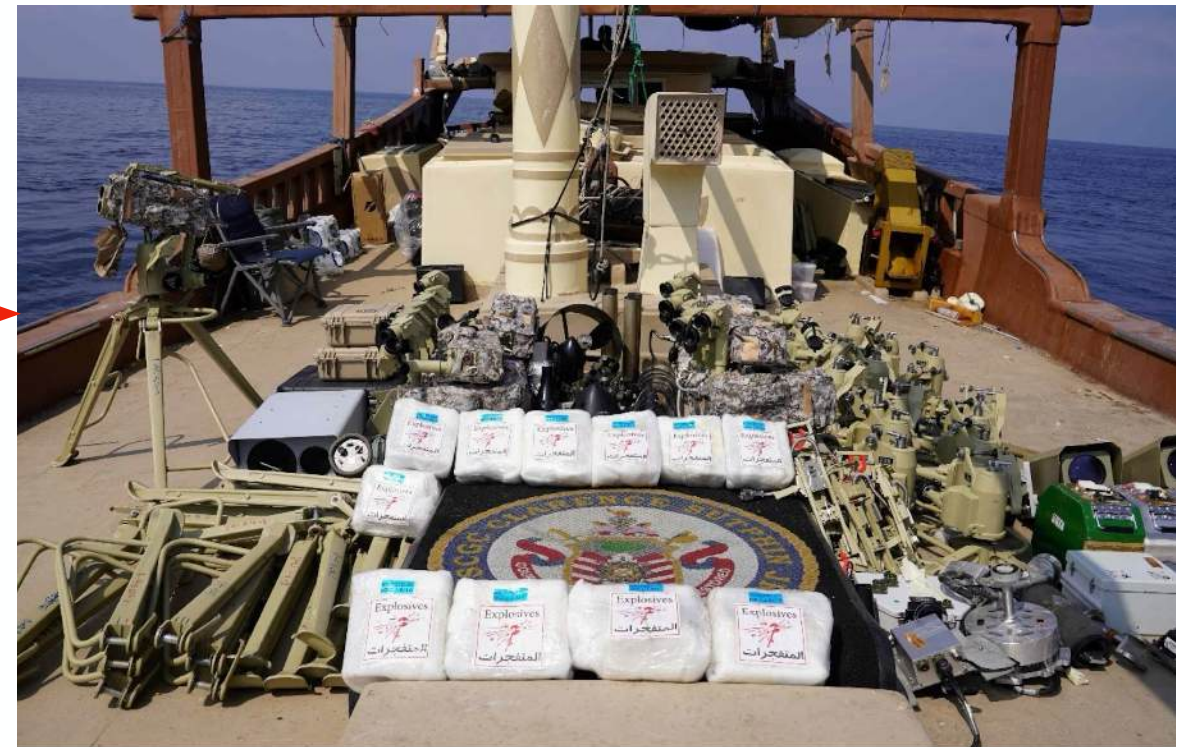
- Jan. 28: **US Navy SEALs intercept ship from Iran transporting over 200 packages with advanced missile components** to resupply Houthi forces.

- Jan. 30: The **USS Gravelly 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.

Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- 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.
- Feb. 12: **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.
- Feb. 13: **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.
- Feb. 14: **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.
- Feb. 16: **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.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Feb. 18: **Houthis fired 2 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea. They hit a bulk carrier merchant ship, causing damage and an 18 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 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 US Forces struck down 4 Houthi UAVs and 2 missiles.
- Feb. 23: **US Forces shot down 3 Houthi OWA UAVs** near several commercial ships in the Red Sea with no damages and struck 7 Houthi missiles prepared to launch.
- 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 in-flight 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.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- 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.
- March 5: **US Forces shot down one missile and 3 OWA UAS launched by the Houthis.** Later, US Forces destroyed 3 missiles and 3 USVs prepared to launch in Yemen.



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.

Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- March 6: A Houthi missile struck the bulk carrier True Confidence, causing 3 fatalities and 4 injuries amongst the crew. In addition, **US Forces struck 2 Houthi UAVs prepared to launch from Yemen.**
- March 8: **US Forces struck 2 Houthi missiles prepared to launch in the Red Sea** as the Houthis fired 2 missiles at a vessel, with no damage.
- March 9: **US and Coalition Forces shot down 28 OWA UAVs fired by Houthis** into the Red Sea.
- March 11: Houthis fired 2 missiles in the Red Sea at the merchant vessel Pinocchio with no damages reported. **US Forces conducted 6 strikes, destroying 18 Houthi missiles and a UAV prepared to launch at the Red Sea from Yemen.**
- March 14: **Houthis fired 2 missiles from Yemen to the Gulf of Aden and 2 towards the Red Sea**, causing no damage. **US Forces also struck 9 Houthi missiles and 2 UAVs** in Yemen prepared to launch.
- March 15: **Houthis fired 3 missiles from Yemen** towards the Red Sea with no damages.
- March 16: **Houthis fired 2 UAVs from Yemen** towards the Red Sea. US Forces shot one down. **US Forces also struck 5 Houthi USVs and 1 UAV** in Yemen prepared to launch.
- March 18: **US Forces struck 7 Houthi missiles, 3 UAVs, and 3 weapons storage containers** in Yemen in self defense.
- March 19: **Houthi missile penetrates Israeli air space** and lands north of Eilat, causing no damage.



March 6 Houthi attack on the True Confidence ship led to **the first civilian casualties of the Houthi Red Sea attacks** since October 7 2023.

Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- March 20: **US and Coalition Forces shot down 1 UAV and 1 USV launched by Houthis at the Red Sea.**
- March 21: **Coalition Forces shot down 1 USV and 2 missiles fired by Houthis at the Red Sea.**
- March 22: **US Forces struck 4 Houthi UAVs in Yemen prepared to launch at the Red Sea.** The Houthis fired 4 missiles into the Red Sea with no damages reported. In addition, US Forces struck 3 Houthi underground storage facilities in Yemen.
- March 23: **Houthis fired 5 missiles into the Red Sea** in the vicinity of a Chinese oil tanker, causing minimal damage. US Forces including the USS Carney engaged 6 Houthi UAVs over the Red Sea, downing five as one returned to Yemen.
- March 27: **US Forces destroyed 4 Houthi UASs fired at a US warship in the Red Sea.**
- March 28: **US Forces destroyed 4 Houthi UASs fired at a coalition vessel and a US warship in the Red Sea.**
- March 30: **US Forces destroyed 2 Houthi UASs over the Red Sea and on the ground prepared to launch.**
- April 1: **US Forces destroyed a USV fired by the Houthis at the Red Sea**
- April 3: **US Forces destroyed an anti-ship ballistic missile and 2 UAS launched by the Houthis towards the USS Gravelly** and attacked a mobile surface-to-air missile system in Houthi territory.
- April 4: **US Forces struck a Houthi anti-ship missile** in Yemen in self defense.
- April 6: **US Forces destroyed one Houthi mobile surface-to-air missile system, one Houthi unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), and one Houthi inbound anti-ship missile.**



Phase 5: Humanitarian Efforts

Increasing Aid to Gaza



Israel & World Increase Humanitarian Efforts Post-Cease Fire

- By the 175th day of the war, Israel inspected **over 19,500 trucks of humanitarian aid for Gaza, carrying >350,000 tons** of aid
- On December 15th, **Israel re-opened the Kerem Shalom border between Israel and Gaza** to allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza after opening the crossing on Dec. 12 for aid inspection
- **IDF continued to use tactical operational pauses to allow humanitarian aid** to be transferred within Gaza
- **3 more field hospitals were 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)

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

Bakeries in Gaza produced **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



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- March 2: US Air Force (USAF) and the Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) 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 3, over 275 trucks of humanitarian aid entered Gaza, the most in one day since the start of the war.
- March 5: USAF and RJAF dropped over 36,000 meals into Northern Gaza.
- March 7: USAF and RJAF dropped over 36,000 meals into Northern Gaza.
- March 8: USAF and RJAF dropped over 11,500 meals into Northern Gaza.
- March 8: US DOD announced it will "undertake an emergency mission to establish a temporary pier on the coast of Gaza to deliver up to 2M humanitarian aid meals per day." US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff later said on March 28 that Israel committed to help protect US troops traveling to build and operate a floating dock to transport aid into Gaza.
- March 9: USAF dropped over 41,400 meals and 23,000 bottles of water into Northern Gaza.



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- March 10: **USAF and RJAF dropped over 11,500 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- March 11: **USAF and RJAF dropped over 27,600 meals and 25,900 bottles** of water into Northern Gaza.
- March 12: **USAF and RJAF dropped over 5,280 pounds of food** (rice, flour, pasta and canned food) into Northern Gaza.
- March 13: World Central Kitchen built a jetty in Northern Gaza to receive shipments of aid from the sea. A ship funded by the UAE carried supplies for World Central Kitchen from Cyprus to the jetty carrying **just under 500,000 meals**.
- March 13: Israel facilitates humanitarian aid deliveries directly from Israel into Northern Gaza of World Food Program trucks. Israel also **transferred 40 tons of aid from Morocco** to Kerem Shalom crossing.
- March 15: **USAF dropped over 35,700 meals and 31,800 bottles of water**, the 11th air drop of humanitarian assistance into Northern Gaza.
- March 16: IDF escorts **convoy of 12 aid trucks** to Northern Gaza
- March 16: **USAF and RJAF dropped sixteen 375-pound bundles of rice, flour, milk, pasta, and canned food** into Northern Gaza.



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- March 17: **USAF** dropped over 28,800 meals and 34,500 bottles of water into Northern Gaza.
- March 20: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped 6,000 pounds of rice, flour, milk, pasta, and **canned food** into Northern Gaza.
- March 21: **USAF** dropped over 50,600 meals into Northern Gaza.
- March 24: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped 13,080 meals into Northern Gaza.
- March 25: **USAF** dropped over 46,000 meals into Northern Gaza.
- March 29: The ship Jennifer prepared to depart Cyprus for Gaza, the second ship of aid delivered by the World Central Kitchen. **It carried 400 tons of food (image top right).**
- March 29: Second shipment of aid from the World Central Kitchen was ready to leave Cyprus for Gaza, including **400 tons of food** including rice, pasta, flour, canned vegetables, and proteins - double the amount of the March 13 shipment.
- March 29: **USAF** dropped over 46,000 meals into Northern Gaza (image bottom right)



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- March 31: **USAF dropped over 50,000 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- April 1: **USAF and RJAF dropped 25,344 meal equivalents including rice, flour, milk, pasta, and canned food** into Northern Gaza.
- April 2: **USAF dropped over 50,680 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- April 3: **USAF and RJAF dropped 38,000 meal equivalents** into Northern Gaza.
- April 4: **USAF dropped over 50,680 meals** into Northern Gaza.
- April 7: **USAF and RJAF dropped 38,000 meal equivalents** into Northern Gaza.



Humanitarian Snapshot

■ On April 10

- 298 trucks of aid inspected by IDF and transferred to Gaza
- Content of 600 aid trucks still waiting to be picked up by UN aid agencies on Gaza side of Kerem Shalom crossing
- 340 aid packages with hundreds of thousands of meals airdropped
- 4 tankers of cooking gas entered Gaza

■ Total as of April 1

- 6,100 humanitarian operations inside Gaza coordinated by the IDF
- IDF approved 84.8% of humanitarian coordination requests. 7.2% denied to prevent aid from reaching HAMAS and 8% denied for operational reasons
- April 5: Israel announces reopening of Erez Crossing
- April 9: Marking the end of Ramadan, largest aid drop over Gaza of 10 tonnes of aid occurred with 14 aircraft from nine countries including US, UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Egypt, Indonesia, UAE, and France launched from an airbase in Jordan

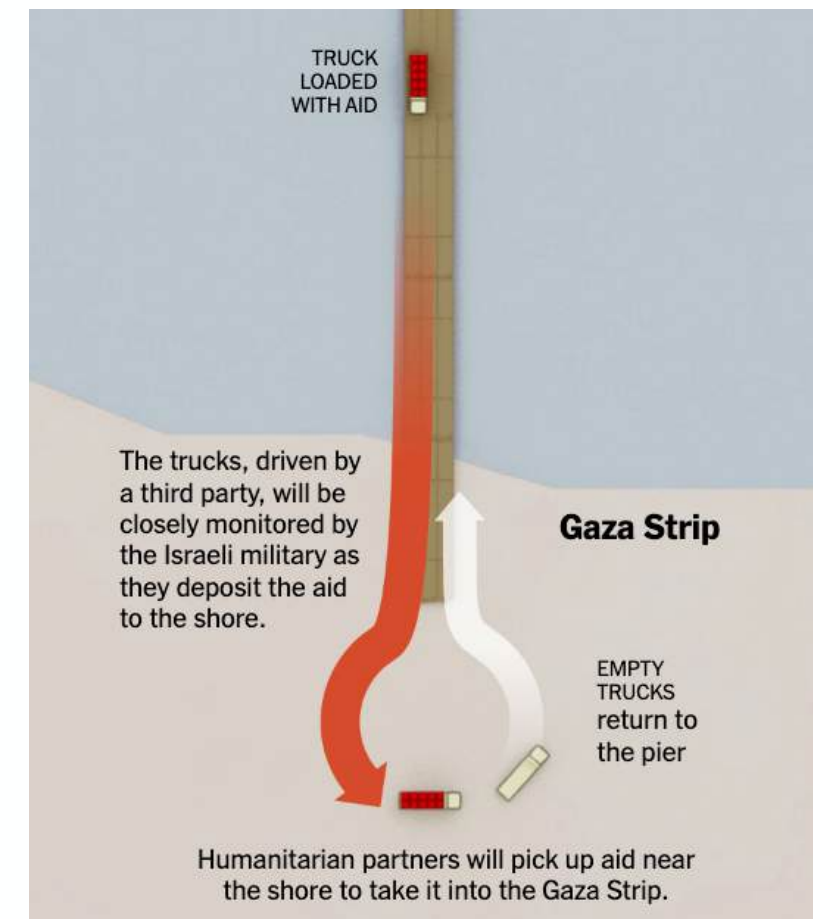
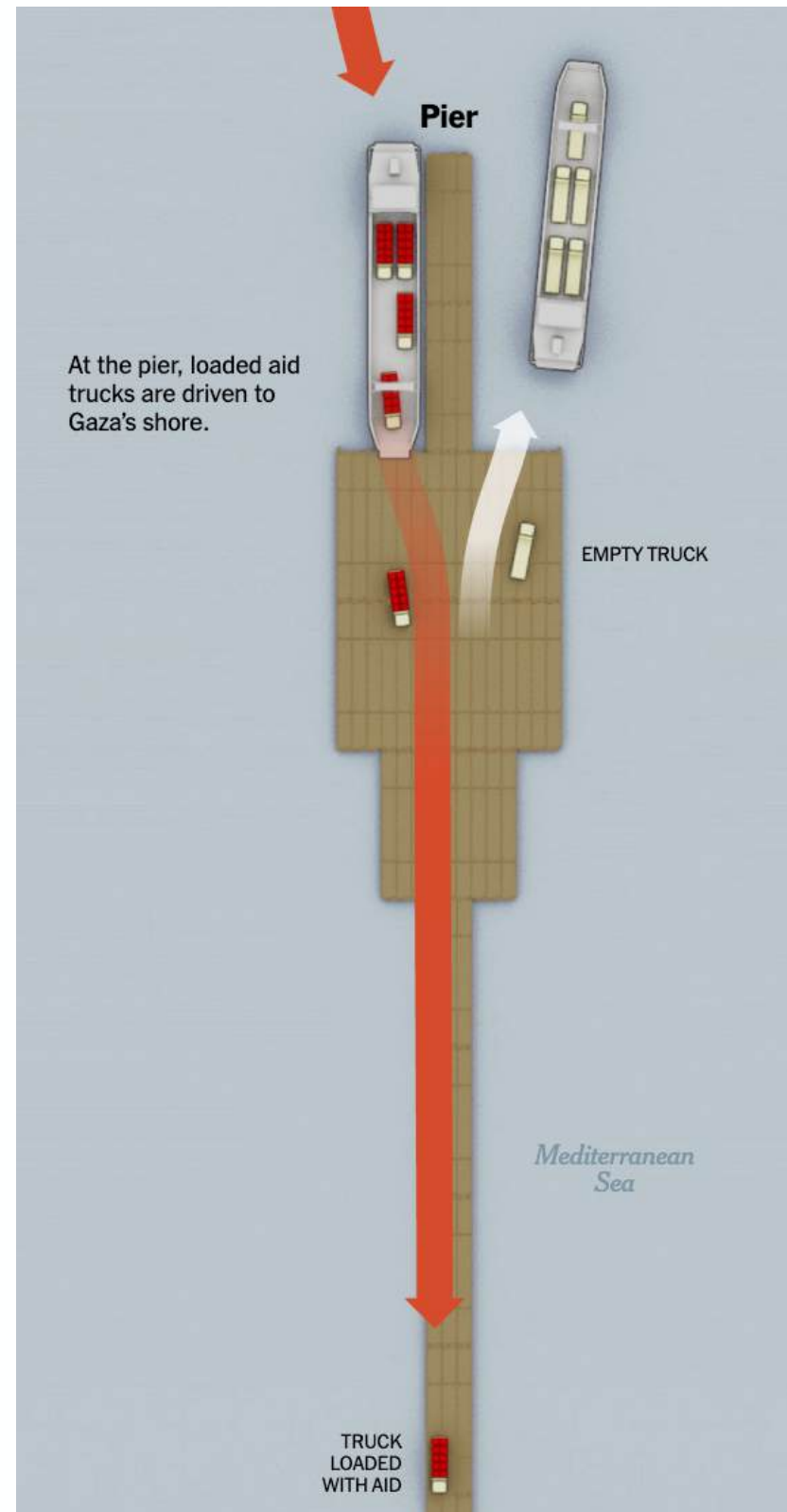
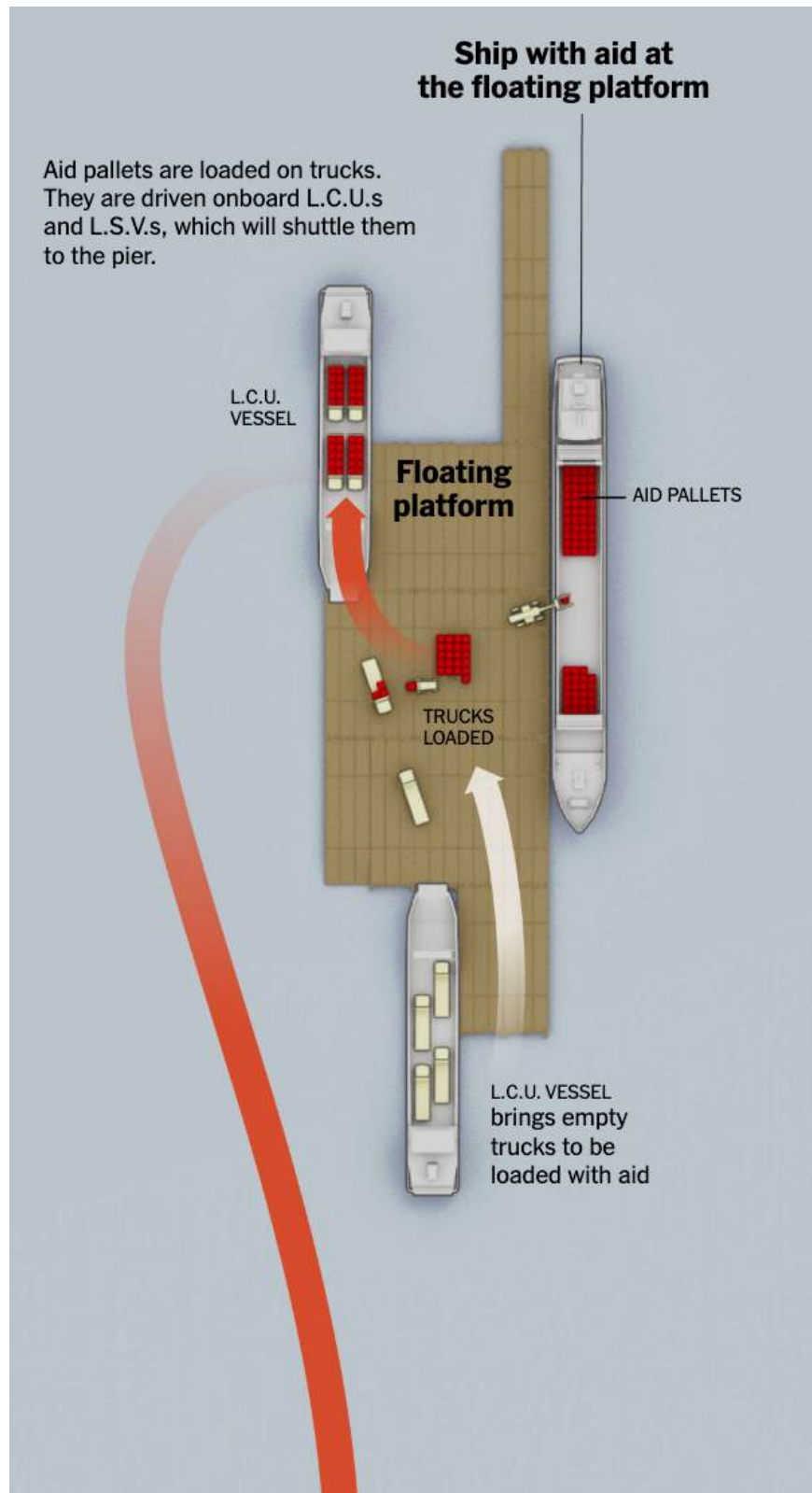


April 1: World Central Kitchen Strike

- 3 car convoy of the World Central Kitchen volunteer aid organization left a warehouse in central Gaza in the evening after unloading more than 100 tons of food brought by sea
- IDF accidentally targeted the three cars via missiles after believing the vehicles to be transporting terrorists
- IDF said a "number of armed gunmen" were in the vicinity of the convoy, but drone operators wrongly tracked cars carrying aid workers.
- 7 World Central Kitchen staff died
- IDF dismissed two senior officers over the incident and apologized to the organization and the families



US Pier Under Construction Off Gaza's Shore



US Pier Under Construction Off Gaza's Shore

- 1,000 US soldiers and 14 US ships are involved in building the pier
- Pier will allow for the transfer of up to 150 truckloads per day
- Aid will be inspected in Cyprus by Israel before traveling 250 miles to a floating platform
- Smaller vessels will transport the aid to a pier
- It will be anchored by the IDF to the shore in Northern Gaza so that no US personnel will step foot in Gaza



Image of US pier construction released by CENTCOM April 29 2024

Phase 6: Iran, Rafah & Hezbollah

April 8 - Sept 15

*Israel Responds to Iran,
IDF enters Rafah, & Lebanon Looms*



April 1: Israel Strikes IRGC Leaders in Damascus, Syria

Israeli Attack

- Israel strikes an Iranian building in Damascus, Syria killing 7 Iranian officials
- 3 senior Iranian military leaders are amongst the 7 casualties
- Among the dead: Gen. Mohammad Reza Zahedi (the top IRGC commander in Syria and Lebanon), his deputy, and several staff members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard force coordinating the actions of all Iranian allied and proxy Iranian forces operating against Israel. These were the highest-ranking Iranian officers to have been killed since the 2020 assassination by the US of Qassem Soleimani

Iran Plans a Response

- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on April 3 that the attack "will not remain without answer"
- Iran had not retaliated after similar strikes in the past, but by April 7, Iran signaled quietly to neighbors that it would respond with a major strike on Israel - the first ever direct attack on Israeli soil. Many of these signals were relayed to Israel.



Israel & US Prepare for Iran's Response

Israel Prepares for Iranian Retaliation

- IDF begins to plan a defensive and offensive response by coordinating with the US Central Command, as well as the British, French and Jordanian militaries
- IDF announced guidance beginning 11pm April 13 to cancel schools and all events with over 1,000 people for the next 24 hours, signaling precise intelligence
- Israel and Jordan close their airspace that night as well

US Prepares for Iranian Retaliation

- USS Carney, a destroyer heading back towards its home port in Florida, was sent back to the eastern Mediterranean - close enough to Israel so that it could intercept ballistic missiles with SM-3 interceptors
- Extra F-15E fighter jets were sent to the region to help shoot down drones
- F-16 fighter jets based in the region were prepared to join the operation
- USS Eisenhower, based off the coast of Yemen in the Red Sea, was moved closer to Israel so that it could launch fighter jets to intercept drones sent by the Houthis



April 13 & 14: Iran's First Direct Attack Against Israel

- Iran launched a first wave of an attack, reaching Israeli air space around 2am Sunday morning April 14
- The attack involved four waves of launches: two of explosive drones, then the cruise missiles and then the ballistic missiles. The wave sequence was **intended to do 2 things** (BESA Center):



- to deliver the different weapons so their arrival at their targets would be either simultaneous. Each weapon flies at a different speed (drones are the slowest, ballistic missiles the fastest).
- to inundate Israel's anti-rocket/missile defenses; compel it to use up its stores of ready-to-launch interceptor missiles to combat the first, less powerful drones (40-50 kilograms of explosive each) just prior to the arrival of the heavier explosive-payload-carrying missiles (they range from a few hundred to 1,200 kilograms each); and deprive Israel of sufficient time to reload the interceptor batteries before the latter arrived.
- To reach Israel from Iran, the drones and missiles flew over Iraq, then proceeding through Syria or Jordan
- Iran launched over 100 ballistic missiles, 170 drones and some 30 cruise missiles, with 60 tons of warheads and explosive materials, possibly the largest barrages of this kind in military history

6 Layers of Israeli Aerial Defense

■ Iron Dome

- Mobile unit that intercepts low-flying rockets and drones and when mounted on a ship is referred to as Sea Dome
- Thousands of successful intercepts since it became operational in 2011

■ Patriot: American-made system used to shoot down aircraft and drones

■ David's Sling

- Intercepts medium-altitude rockets and short range ballistic missiles, operational since 2017

■ Arrow-2 System

- Intercepts high-altitude missiles and is the longest serving Israeli aerial defense system
- Designed with the US, it intercepts the kind of ballistic missiles Iran launched on April 13

■ Arrow-3 System: Intercepts exo-atmospheric missiles

■ Fighter aircraft and attack helicopters

- Israel's Air Force is equipped with ~450 aircraft, most of which are the most advanced fighter jets made in the US, including the F-35 stealth aircraft, and F-15 and F-16 aircraft
- Israeli fighter jets and attack helicopters have the ability to shoot down missiles and drones
- Israeli F-35I stealth fighter jets have been known to shoot down drones and cruise missiles before

Iron Dome



Arrow-3



The Coalition Behind Operation Iron Shield

- The March 23rd The Economist cover suggested Israel was isolated



The Coalition Behind Operation Iron Shield



■ Preparing Operation Iron Shield

- April 9: IDF Chief of Staff Halevi called US CENTCOM Commander Gen. Kurilla and on April 11 Gen. Kurilla arrived for joint preparations
- Coalition built over years (but never battle tested) led by the **US**, with **Great Britain**, **France**, and quietly - the **Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan** and the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**
- Iran gave 72 hours notice to neighbors and countries in the region and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates passed on intelligence about Iran's plans to attack Israel
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan agreed to let US, Israel and other countries' warplanes to use its airspace

■ Coalition Responds

- Jordan had already deployed Patriot aerial defense systems from the US in late 2023
- **Missiles were tracked by US radars in Qatar** that sent information to Israel's missile defense units and to fighter jets from several countries over Jordan
- **Drones were shot down by Israeli, US, Jordanian, British, and French warplanes**
- Jordan's Air Force intercepted dozens of Iranian drones that violated its airspace and were heading to Israel
- US aircraft shot down 80 drones while two guided-missile destroyers intercepted six ballistic missiles, and a US Patriot system near Erbil, Iraq, intercepted one ballistic missile

WSJ: "No one had ever tried to intercept so many ballistic missiles at once before."



Results of the Iranian Attack

Result of the Attack

- Sirens sounded in Southern Israel, West Bank, Jerusalem, and Northern Israel
- 99% of the aerial attack was intercepted even though at one point over 100 ballistic missiles were in the air
- Israel's Arrow system intercepted most of the ballistic missiles
- Five Iranian missiles did make it through the aerial defenses and caused minor damage at the Nevatim Israeli Air Force Base, including to a C-130 transport aircraft and empty storage facilities.
- 10 year old Muslim Israeli girl was injured by falling shrapnel



Shrapnel from an Iranian missile found near the Dead Sea in Israel

Cost of Defending Israel

- IDF Brig. Gen. (Res.) Reem Aminoach, former financial advisor to the IDF Chief of Staff, estimated that **the cost of the aerial defense operation against the Iranian attack amounted to more than a billion dollars**

Over \$30,000 per Iron Dome interception, \$3.5 million per Arrow interception, \$1 million per David's Sling interceptor, and costs for fighter jets added up to a magnitude of over one billion dollars



April 19: Israel Responds

Israeli Attack

- Israel sent small attack drones, known as quadcopters, to confuse Iranian air defenses
- Instead of sending fighter jets into Iranian airspace, Israel fired a small number of missiles from aircraft positioned several hundred miles west of Iran on April 19 and the weapon included technology that enabled it to evade Iran's radar defenses
- One missile hit an anti-aircraft battery in a strategically important part of central Iran, while another exploded in midair
- The Israeli Air Force intentionally destroyed the second missile once it became clear that the first had reached its target, to avoid causing too much damage
- The battery struck was a radar of an S-300 anti-aircraft system at the Iranian military's Eighth Shekari Air Base in Isfahan

Meaning of the Attack

- Israel abandoned plans for a much more extensive counterstrike on Iran after concerted diplomatic pressure from the United States and other foreign allies
- The attack showed Iran the breadth and sophistication of Israel's military arsenal
- By attacking a part of central Iran that houses several major nuclear facilities, including an uranium enrichment site at Natanz, Israel hinted that it could have also reached those facilities if it had tried

April 29: reports Israel allegedly assassinated an IRGC operative involved in planning attacks against Jews in Europe



IDF Removes Nearly All Soldiers from Gaza by mid-April

April 2024



By mid-April 2024, the IDF had only one brigade in Gaza (~4,000 troops)

Onwards Towards Rafah

- April 24: IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi and Israeli Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) Director Ronen Bar visit Cairo to meet Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel and Egyptian Chief of Staff Osama Oskar to discuss a Rafah operation.
- April 24: IDF announces it's preparing to deploy two reserve brigades to central Gaza, freeing up the brigade in central Gaza for a possible operation in Rafah. The two brigades were to deploy along the east-west humanitarian corridor dividing Gaza and to secure the pier being built by the US.
- April 24: Israel confirms purchase of 40,000 large 12-person tents for Palestinians relocated from Rafah.

Before and after: images from IDF of expanded humanitarian zone in Gaza as of April 28 2024



May 6: IDF Enters Rafah

- May 3: Wall Street Journal reported that: **"Israel has given Hamas a week to agree to a cease-fire deal or it will go ahead with its military operation in Rafah,** Egyptian officials briefed on the matter said Friday."
- May 6: After days of calls for civilians to evacuate certain areas, **IDF forces entered Gaza and began to move towards Eastern Rafah neighborhoods as well as the Rafah Crossing.** Immediately in the first hours of the operation, IDF eliminated 20 HAMAS terrorists and located several terror tunnel shafts.
- The IDF announced on May 17 and May 18 that it had recovered the bodies of 4 hostages - Shani Louk, Amit Buskila, Yitzhak Gelernter, and Ron Benjamin - from inside Gaza and returned them to Israel for burial.
- May 18: UN confirmed 800,000 Gazans have fled Rafah (later the IDF said the number was 900,000).



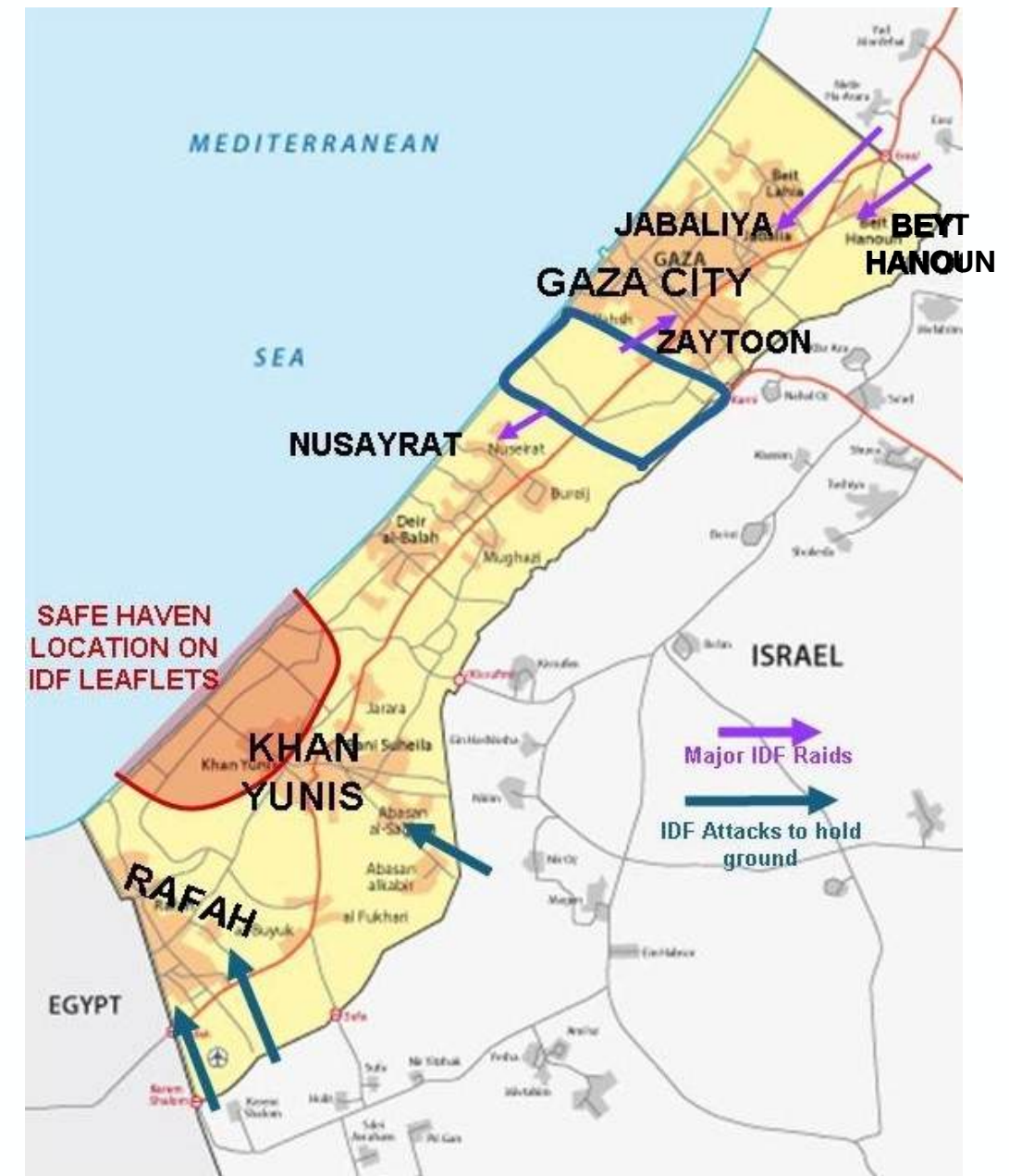
May 10: HAMAS fired 9 rockets from Rafah at the Israeli city of Beer Sheva, hitting a children's playground.

IDF Slowly Increases Operations in Gaza by mid-May

May 2024



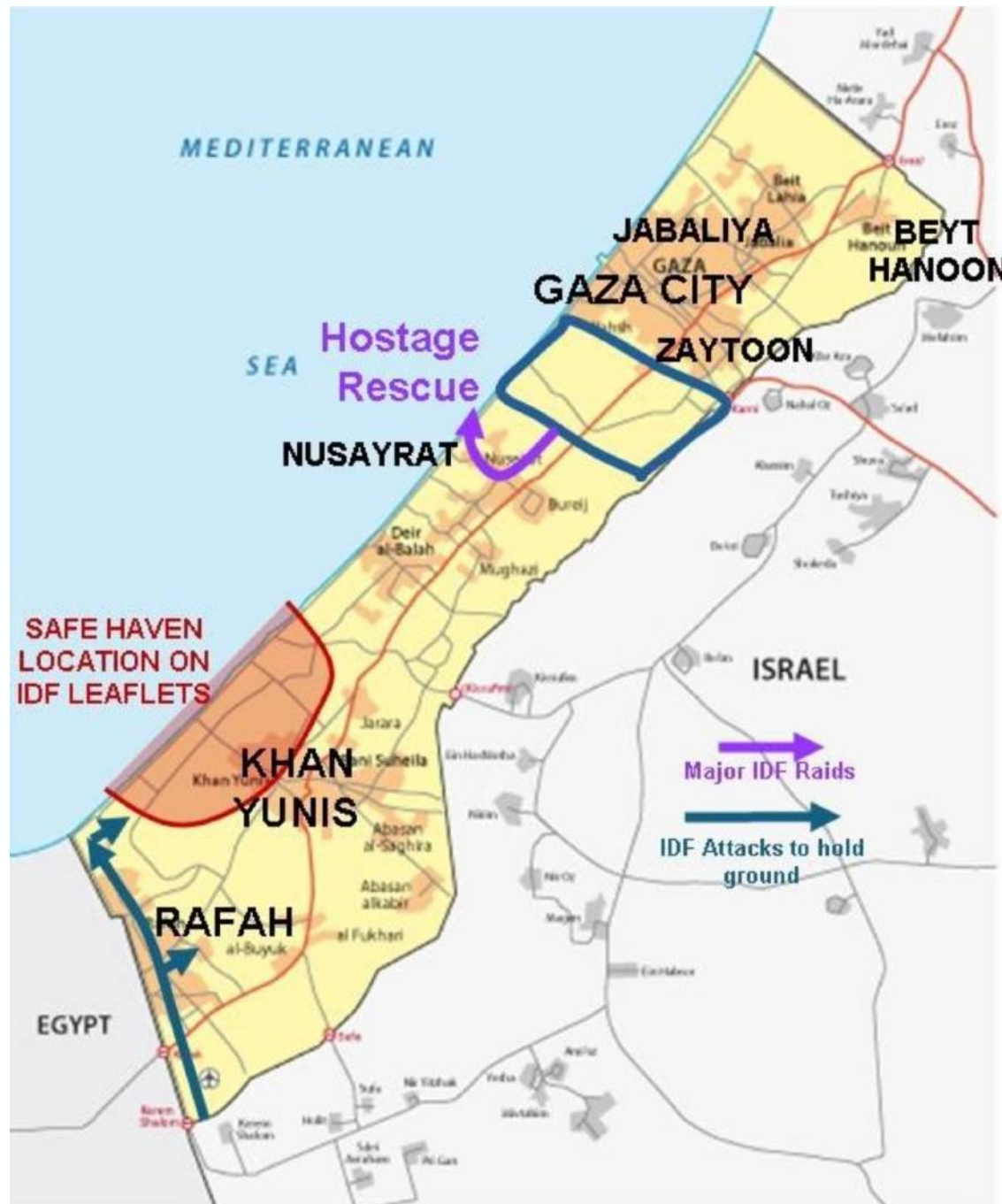
May 14: HAMAS terrorists roaming and shooting at an UNRWA compound in Rafah accompanied by UN vehicles (see image)



IDF launched large raids into areas previously vacated by them, including Beyt Hanoun, Jabaliya, and Zaytoon.

IDF Slowly Increases Operations in Gaza by mid-May

June 2024



- As IDF operations continued in Rafah, so too did IDF operations return in Northern Gaza. For example, Israeli forces returned to Jabaliya for a 3-week operation, **killing 500 terrorists**, destroying over 6 miles of terror tunnels, eliminating rocket launchers and weapons depots, and recovering the bodies of 7 hostages.
- May 17: Israeli forces returned the bodies of 3 hostages from a tunnel inside Rafah in Southern Gaza
- May 24: In an operation in Jabaliya in Northern Gaza, Israeli forces returned the bodies of 3 hostages
- May 29: IDF takes full control over the Philadelphia Corridor dividing Gaza and Egypt

IDF Enters Rafah

- May 17: Israel, appearing at the International Court of Justice, claimed that nearly **700 tunnel shafts had already been identified in Rafah**, from which approximately 50 tunnels cross into Egypt. Israel also said that 120 rockets had been fired from Rafah in the last two weeks.
- Since the start of operations in Rafah on May 7, 2024, the IDF forces:
 - Achieved **full operational control over the entire Philadelphia Axis** on the border with Egypt, between the Kerem Shalom Crossing and the sea, and over several neighborhoods in Rafah
 - **Killed more than 550 terrorists**
 - Located **long-range rockets aimed at the center of Israel**
 - Located more than **200 tunnel shafts and 25 long tunnel routes** reaching the Egyptian border
- As IDF operations wind down in Rafah, Israeli forces continue to operate or begin new operations in previously controlled areas of Gaza such as Khan Younis, Gaza City, Jabaliya, Zaytoon, and Shejayia

4 Israeli Hostages Rescued Alive After 245 Days in Captivity

- 4 Israeli hostages - Noa Argamani (26), Almog Meir Jan (22), Andrey Kozlov (27), and Shalom Ziv (41) - were held in two low-rise apartment buildings 600 feet apart in the Nuseirat neighborhood, full of Gazan civilians.
- **The men were held in the home of Abdallah Aljamal who was a HAMAS employee and international journalist.**
- On June 8, 2024, two teams of Israeli commandos arrived to the area in local trucks and (dressed as HAMAS soldiers and local civilians) simultaneously stormed the apartments, with a firefight breaking out in the apartment where the male hostages were imprisoned between HAMAS guards and the Israeli special forces.
- When a vehicle carrying the hostages came under attack from terrorists and broke down, the Israeli Air Force struck dozens of nearby targets to ensure their safety. Dozens of Gazan terrorists and civilians were killed or injured in the rescue mission.



IDF in Rafah, Targeted Raids in Northern Gaza

July 2024



August 2024



IDF Moves to Counter-Terror Operations in Gaza

- As IDF operations slow down in Gaza, Israeli forces continue to operate or begin new operations in previously controlled areas of Gaza such as Khan Younis, Gaza City, Jabaliya, Zaytoon, and Shejayia.
- These raids are aimed at concentrations of HAMAS and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists who attempt to return to exerting control over geographic areas.
- July 24: **IDF retrieved 5 bodies of Israeli hostages** from a tunnel in southern Gaza near a Khan Younis humanitarian area. The tunnel shaft was nearly 220 yards long and more than 20 yards underground, including several rooms, and was located due to intelligence information from detained Palestinian terrorists.



Images of the deceased hostages recovered. From left: Ravid Katz, Kiril Brodski, Tomer Ahimas, Oren Goldin and Maya Goren in photos provided by the Hostages Families Forum.

IDF Targets Muhammad Deif, HAMAS' Military Leader

- On July 13, IDF conducted **a major airstrike against Muhammad Deif, the military commander of HAMAS** in Gaza and the architect of the Oct.7 massacre, among many attacks against Israel.
- **Deif commanded the Qassam Brigades, HAMAS' military wing and the second most senior HAMAS official in Gaza** after Yahya Sinwar. He grew HAMAS' military capabilities significantly over many years, especially in the recruitment of personnel, the development of local weapons manufacturing, and the adoption of new technologies like reconnaissance drones.
- In the strike, the **IDF also killed Rafah Salameh, the HAMAS Battalion Commander of Khan Younis**
- On January 30, 2025, HAMAS confirmed Deif's death.



Muhammad Deif

Death of Ismail Haniyeh, Likely by Israel

- **Ismail Haniyeh was a founding member of Hamas in 1988 and later leader of HAMAS in Gaza.** He served as the Prime Minister of a Palestinian unity government for several months and was officially named the political leader of Hamas in 2017.
- An explosion occurred on July 31 around 2a.m. inside an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp guesthouse where Haniyeh was sleeping 10 hours after Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian was sworn into office and hours after a meeting between Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and Haniyeh.
- It is believed that the explosion was caused by a device smuggled into the Tehran guesthouse prior to Haniyeh's arrival.



Ismail Haniyeh (left) pictured with Yahya Sinwar (right).

HAMAS Military Leadership Killed by Israel



Elimination of Hamas' Military Wing Leadership

Eliminated



Marwan Issa

Deputy Commander of
Hamas' Military Wing

Eliminated



Mohammed Deif

Commander of
Hamas' Military Wing

Eliminated



Muhammad Shabana

Commander of the
Rafah Brigade



Rafa Salama

Commander of the
Khan Yunis Brigade

Eliminated



Ayman Nofal

Commander of the
Central Gaza Brigade



Izz al-Din Al Haddad

Commander of the
Gaza Brigade

Eliminated



Ahmed Ghandour

Commander of the
Northern Gaza Brigade

Eliminated



Ayman Siam

Head of Rockets and
Mortars Unit

Eliminated



Ra'ad Taabat

Head of Manpower in
the Shifa Hospital

Eliminated



Ghazi Abu Tamaa

Head of Hamas' Administrative
Military Council



Mohammed Sinwar

Head of Operations



Raad Saad

Head of Production



Emad Akel

Head of Combat Enforcement



Muhammad Odeh

Head of Intelligence

IDF Rescues Israeli Hostage Farhan al-Qadi Alive

- Farhan al-Qadi is a 52-year-old Muslim Bedouin from Southern Israel. He was kidnapped by HAMAS on October 7 when he was working as a guard at a kibbutz.
- Aug. 27: IDF rescued Farhan al-Qadi alive from a tunnel 25 yards underground in Rafah. He was the 8th hostage rescued alive and the first to be rescued from an underground location. His captors had abandoned him but left him alive.



Farhan al-Qadi (above, in green) undergoes treatment in Souroka Medical Center in Israel after being rescued by the IDF from HAMAS captivity.

6 Bodies of Israeli Hostages Executed By HAMAS Are Recovered

- Aug. 29-30: **HAMAS executed 6 Israeli hostages, including American citizen Hersh Goldberg-Polin by shooting them each multiple times from close range, including in the head.**



Clockwise from top left: Carmel Gat, Eden Yerushalmi, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Ori Danino, Almog Sarusi and Alexander Lobanov, in photos released by the Hostages and Missing Families Forum. The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, via Associated Press

6 Bodies of Israeli Hostages Executed By HAMAS Are Recovered

- Aug. 31: **IDF retrieved the 6 bodies of the hostages** from a HAMAS tunnel in Rafah 20 yards underground and less than a mile from where hostage Farhan al-Qadi was found alive.
- Sept 2: IDF reveals it discovered a **HAMAS tunnel in Gaza in 2023 that was 250 feet deep** (about the height of a 25-story building) which took months to destroy.
- Sept. 12: IDF announces defeat of HAMAS' Rafah Brigade, having killed over 2,300 operatives and destroying 8 miles of tunnels.

The IDF released this image (right) of the HAMAS tunnel located under a child's bedroom in Southern Gaza that led to the location of the 6 Israeli hostages bodies.



Northern Border Heats Up Even Further

- May 14: IDF drone strike killed Hussein Ibrahim Makki, the top intelligence officer for Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon.
- May 15: Hezbollah struck a sensitive IDF military facility in the Lower Galilee (21 miles from the border) with explosive drones, reaching deeper inside Israel than it had in year. The IDF confirmed that a base which operates the SkyDew missile-detecting blimp was hit. In response, the IDF struck a Hezbollah weapons manufacturing plant in Baalbek, the largest strike in that region to date.
- May 16: Hezbollah launched over 40 missiles, rockets, and UAVs into Israel as the IDF launched over a dozen airstrikes on Hezbollah positions around southern Lebanon.
- Hezbollah claimed to have used an “attack drone carrying two S5 rockets” to attack and injure an IDF soldier, **marking the first time Hezbollah had used a drone that launched missiles rather than explosives.**
- May 17: **Hezbollah launched several attack drones from Lebanon into Israel and then over 75 missiles and rockets into Israel - one of the largest since October 7**



Northern Border Escalates Even Further

- June 11: an IDF fighter jet struck and **killed Senior Hezbollah commander Sami Taleb Abdullah**, an arch terrorist responsible for all Hezbollah forces in the central region of Southern Lebanon and who had led operations against Israel for decades. He was the commander of the Nasser Unit that led rocket launches into Northern Israel.
- Sami Taleb Abdullah is **the most senior Hezbollah member killed since October 7 2023**.



Hezbollah Commander Sami Abdallah and late Iranian Quds Force chief Qasem Soleimani.



Image from Hezbollah commander Sami Abdallah's memorial ceremony

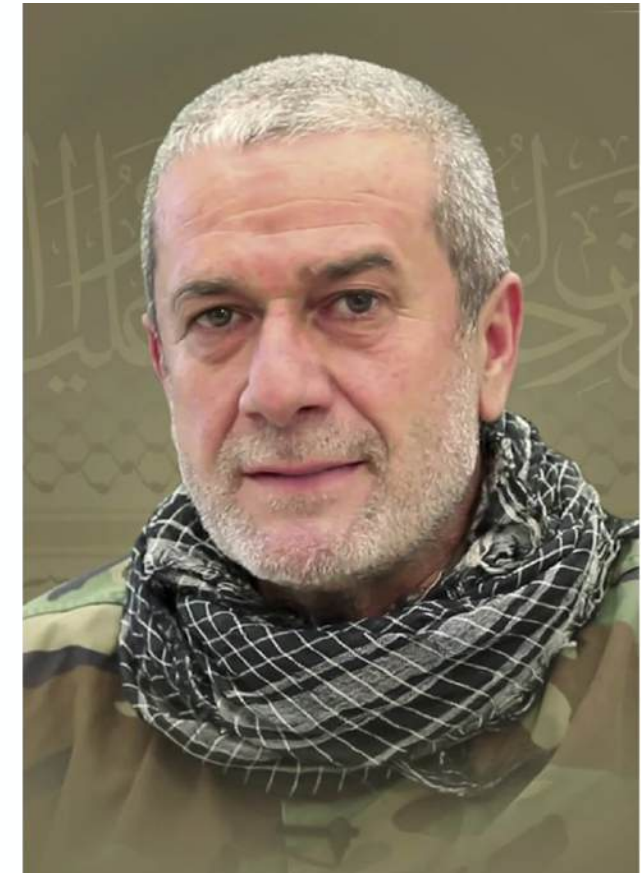
Northern Border Escalates Even Further

- According to Hezbollah, **its response on June 12 was the most extensive attack it had carried out since 10/7/23, including the launch of 30 UAVs and 150 rockets at IDF bases in Northern Israel.** Hezbollah coordinated simultaneous, concentrated barrages of various rockets and explosive UAVs to increase their chances on hitting targets. At the same time, Hezbollah was careful not to extend the range of its attack beyond 35-40 km (22-25 miles) from the border.
- The **IDF confirmed the firing of more than 200 rockets at Israel** after Abdallah's killing, in addition to the launch of UAVs. Two IDF soldiers and two civilians were injured and widespread fires broke out in Northern Israel.
- **June 18: IDF confirms that "operational plans for an offensive in Lebanon were approved and validated"** by the Head of the IDF Northern Command



Northern Border Escalates Even Further

- July 3: IDF drone strike killed Senior Hezbollah Commander Muhammad Niamh Nasser who led the Aziz unit (one of three regional units in Southern Lebanon, mostly in the Southwest). Nasser commanded rocket and anti-tank missiles used to fire on Israeli civilians and communities from Lebanon. He also previously led special operations including the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers in 2006.
- In response, **Hezbollah launched over 200 rockets and mortars, including Falaq rockets and dozens of Katyusha rockets and launched, for the first time, a swarm drone attack with 20 armed drones towards Northern Israel.**
- Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said on July 7 that the IDF had killed 450 terrorists in Lebanon, including 15 brigade-level commanders and 3 division-level commanders.



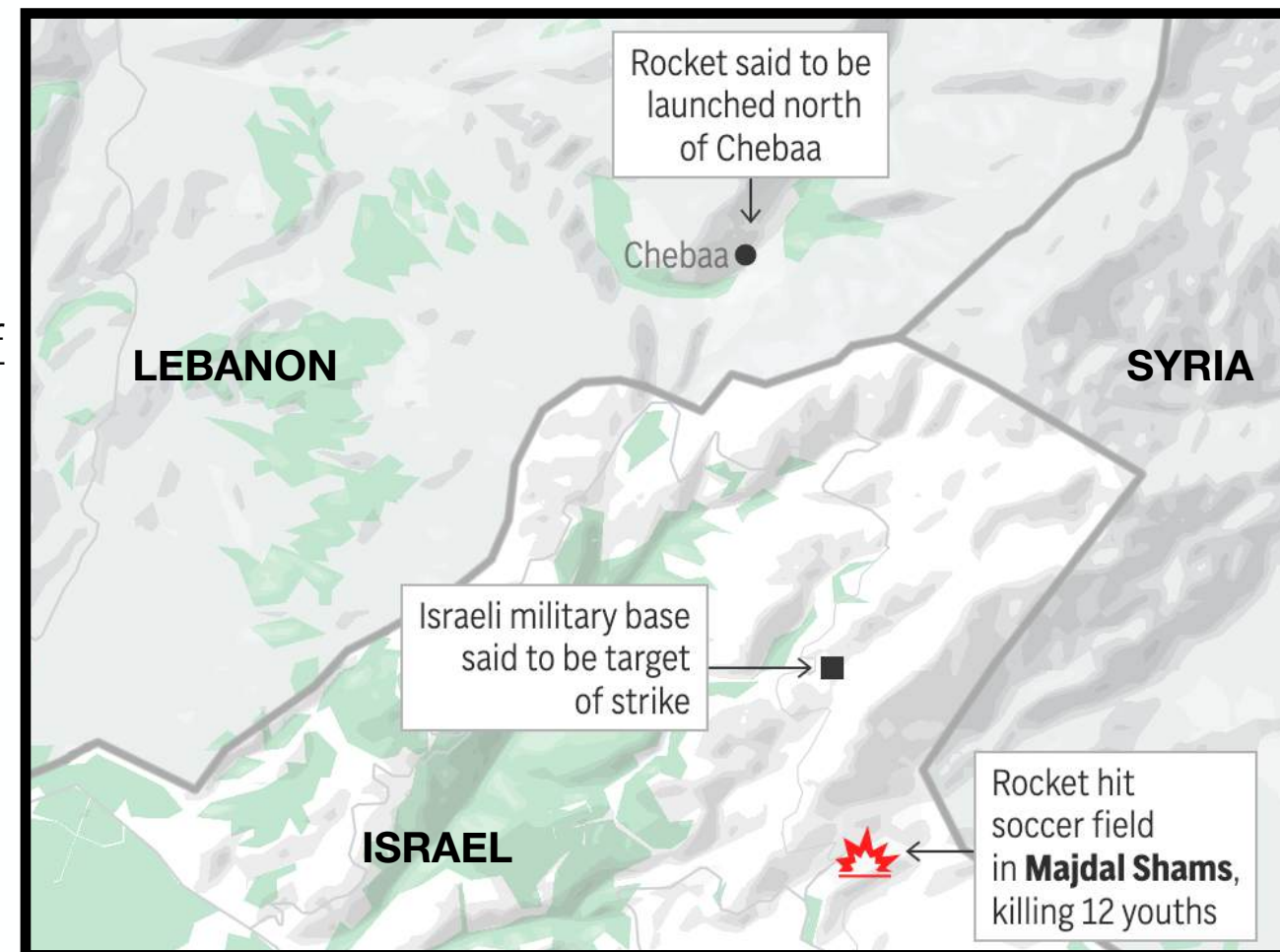
Hezbollah
Commander
Muhammed Niamh
Nasser

Hezbollah Kills 12 Children in Israel

- On July 27, **Hezbollah struck a soccer field in Majdal Shams in Northern Israel** with an Iranian-made Falaq rocket with a 117-pound warhead. 12 children and youth, all Druze residents of Israel, were killed.
- Druze are an ethnoreligious minority that identify as Arab and are Arabic-speaking. Only 20% of residents of Majdal Shams are Israeli citizens, as many consider themselves Syrians.



Map of the northern part of the Golan Heights



Images of the deceased: (Top row, L-R) Ameer Rabeea Abu Saleh, 16, Iseel Nasha'at Ayoub, 12, Hazem Akram Abu Saleh, 15, Milad Muadad Alsha'ar, 10 (Middle row, L-R) Alma Ayman Fakher Eldin, 11, Naji Taher Alhalabi, 11, Johnny Wadea Ibrahim, 13, Yazan Nayeif Abu Saleh, 12 (Bottom row, L-R) Fajer Laith Abu Saleh, 16, Vinees Adham Alsafadi, 11, Nathem Fakher Saeb, 16, and Gevara Ebraheem, 11, who were killed in a Hezbollah rocket attack on Majdal Shams on July 27, 2024.

IDF Assassinate Fuad Shukr, Hezbollah Military Commander

- July 30: **IDF strike killed Hezbollah's most senior military commander Fuad Shukr, who was responsible for the attack on the 12 children and teenagers.**
- **He was a close advisor to Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, the former military leader of Hezbollah in Syria and southern Lebanon, and was wanted by the US** for his role in the 1983 bombing that killed hundreds of American soldiers in Beirut. He was also formerly the commander of Hezbollah's precision missile project.
- **The last time Israel struck Beirut since October 7 was in January** when it assassinated HAMAS leader Saleh al-Aroui.



Hezbollah's Senior Military Commander Fuad Shukr.

IDF's Preemptive Strike Against Hezbollah

- Aug. 1: Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah pledged to respond to Fuad Shukr's assassination.
- By late August, the US military had increased its force posture in the region - to include 2 aircraft carriers (the Theodore Roosevelt and the Abraham Lincoln) as well as their accompanying warships and attack planes, in addition to the guided-missile submarine Georgia.
- As the IDF increased operations deep inside Lebanon to kill more commanders and destroy weapons warehouses while conducting nearly nonstop drone and jet flights across the border.
- Aug. 25: Nearly a month after the assassination of Fuad Shukr and Hezbollah's threat of a response, the **IDF identified Hezbollah's preparations for an imminent retaliatory attack and acted to preempt it** by deploying around 100 aircraft over Lebanon. The IDF carried out dozens of strikes against over 40 Hezbollah targets within 30 miles of the border, destroying thousands of rocket and missile launchers (90% of them short-range systems aimed at Northern Israel) and preventing the launch of "precision missiles."
- American drones and aircraft provided surveillance imagery used by the IDF to target Hezbollah launchers.



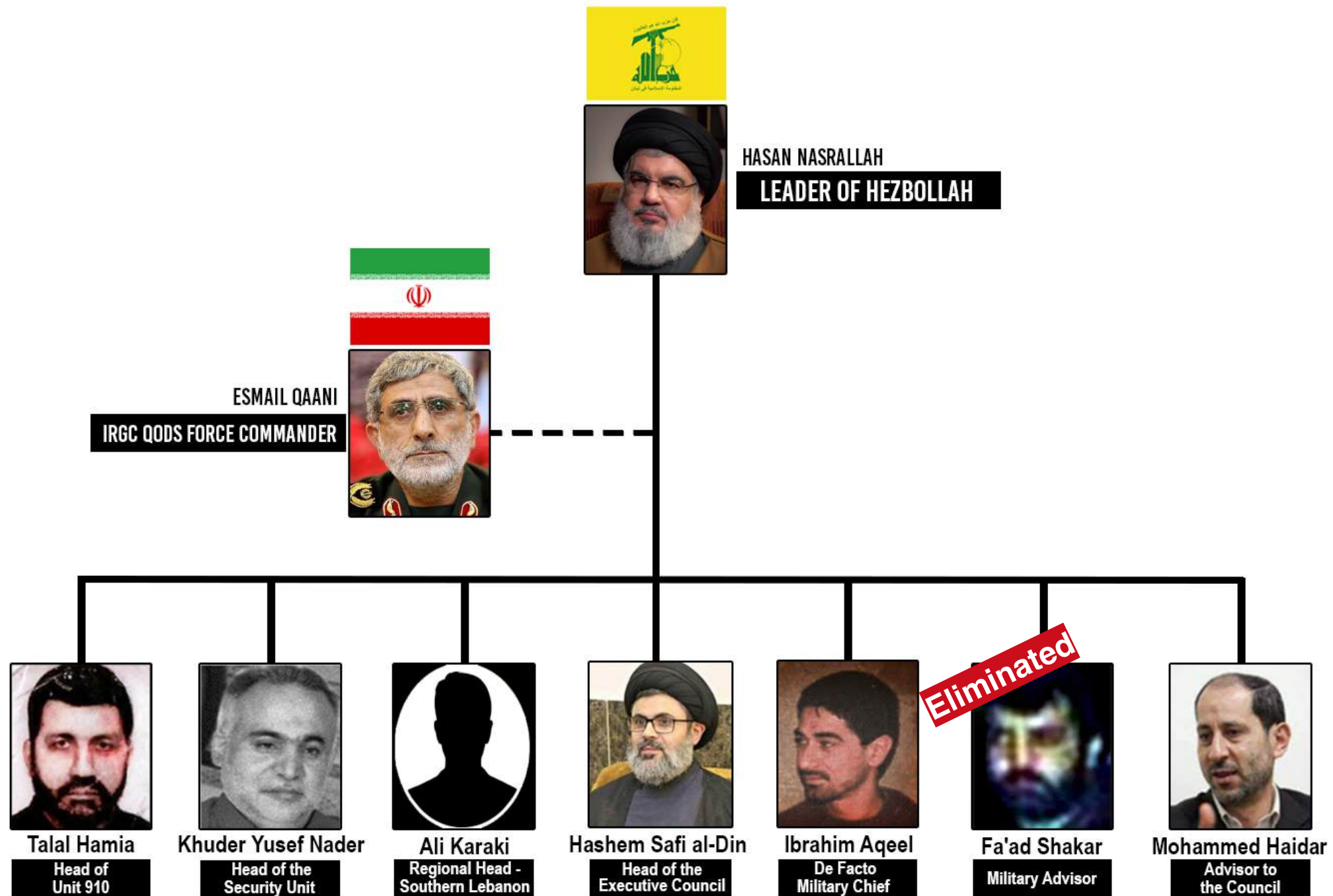
Hezbollah Strikes on August 25, 2024

- A half hour after the Israeli strike on the morning of August 25, 2024, **Hezbollah fired hundreds of rockets and drones at Israel**, aiming mainly at military targets and causing little damage.
- **According to Hezbollah, their operation involved launching 340 rockets** (the IDF claimed it was 230 rockets and 20 drones) at **military sites in Northern Israel and using drones to target two IDF facilities deeper inside Israel**: the headquarters of Unit 8200 and an Israeli Air Force base which operates Israel's missile defense systems. **Hezbollah drones and most rockets were intercepted by the IDF.**
- After the exchange of fire, Nasrallah confirmed that the attacks of August 25 were its retaliation for the assassination of Shukr and that it was done with its retaliation.

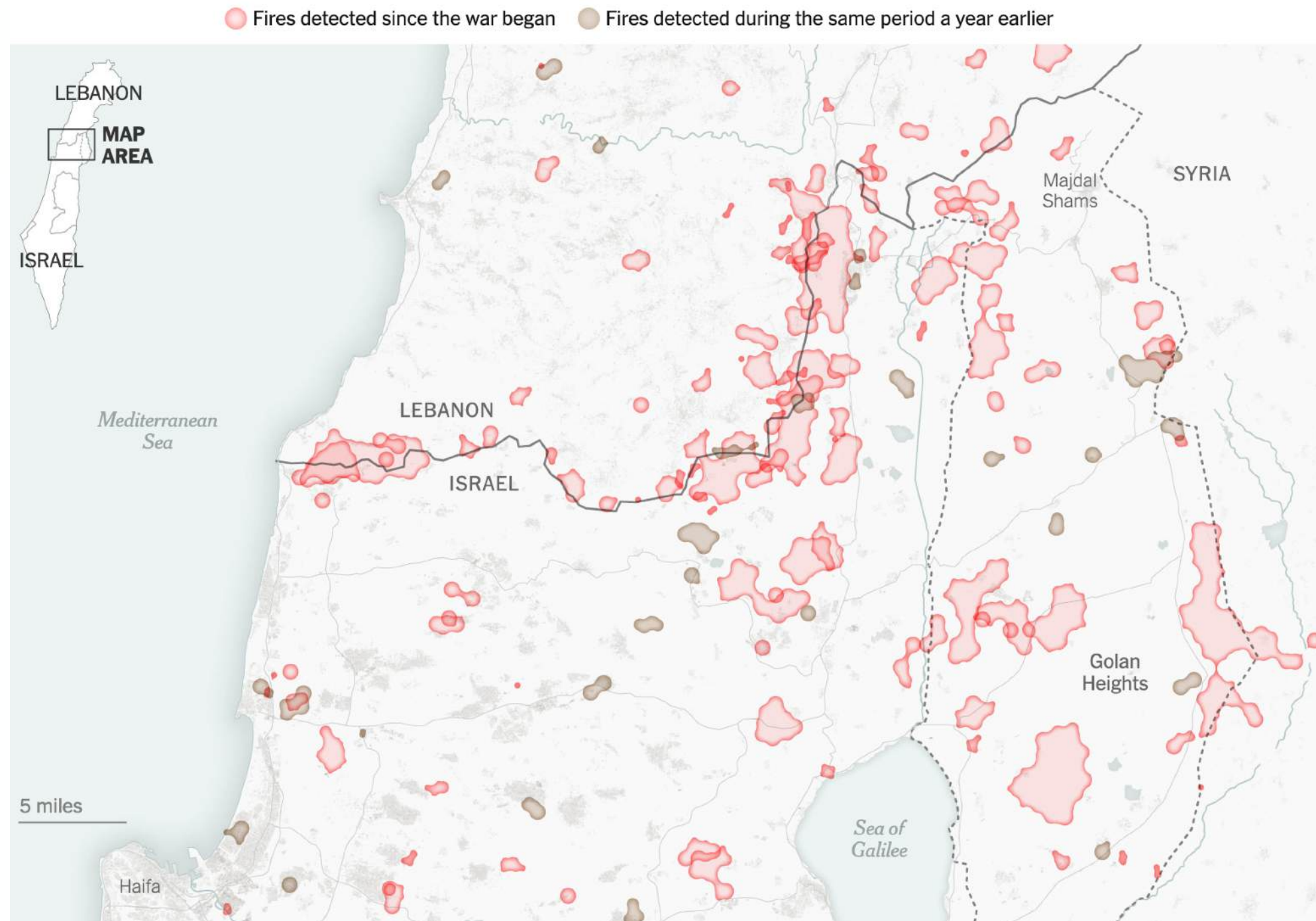


A Hezbollah UAV is intercepted by the IDF over Northern Israel on August 25, 2024.

Hezbollah's Jihad Council - Military High Command



Where Fires Have Broken Out in Southern Lebanon and Northern Israel



Fires are the result of aerial attacks between Hezbollah and the IDF.

Does Hezbollah Want an All-Out War?

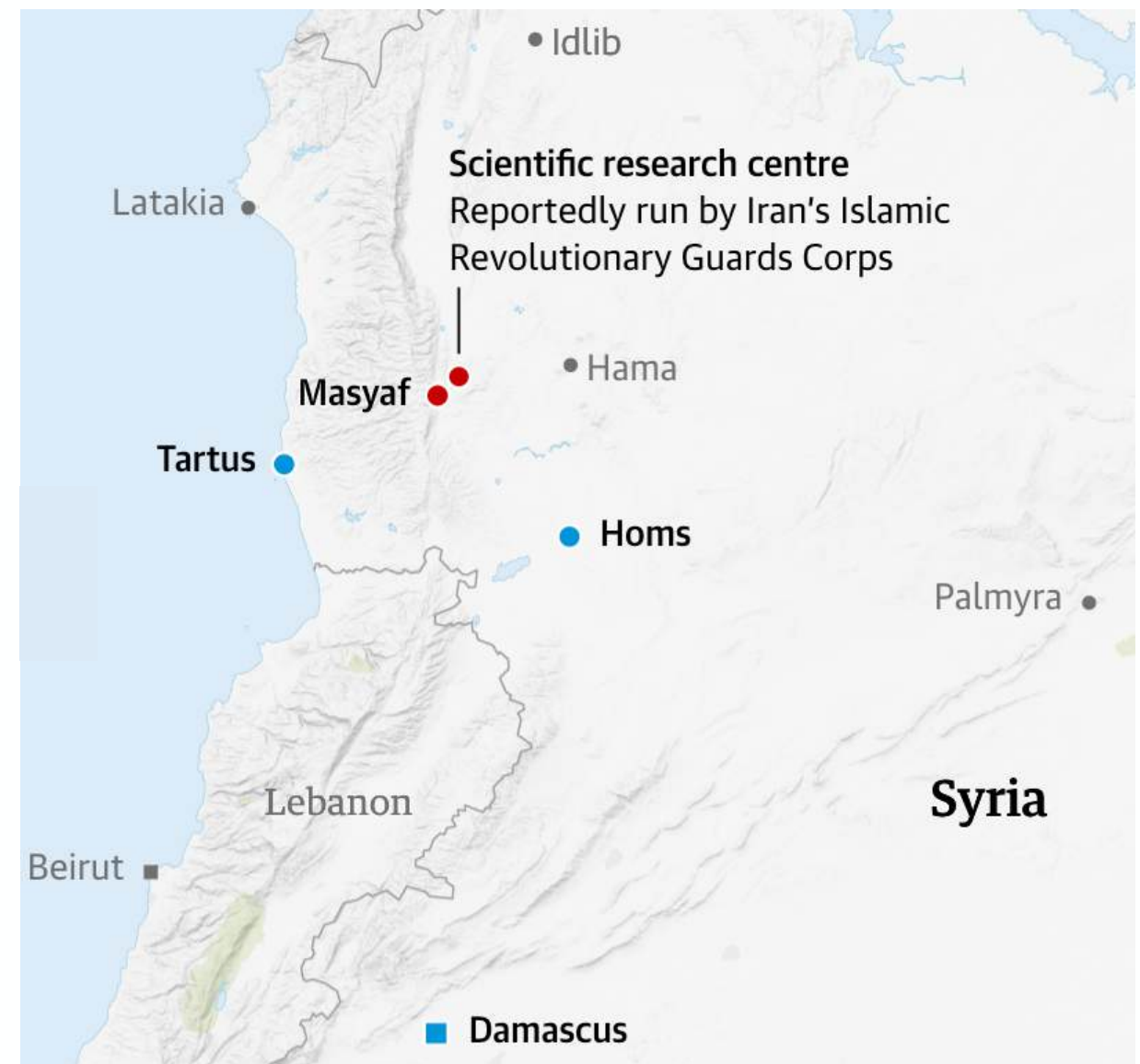


Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem said in a June 7, 2024 interview with Al-Rabiaa TV (Iraq) that Hezbollah does not seek an all-out war at this time.

“When Nasrallah said that this is a complete war, he was right because what is happening on the battlefield has all the elements of war, but **it is not an all-out war.** It is a complete war in the area where it is taking place but it is not an all-out war with regard to Lebanon in its entirety, because **we do not think that turning this into an all-out war would serve Gaza or Lebanon. It will not.** We already did [the things] that could serve them. **If there is something else we can do to serve Gaza we will do it, but not an all out war, because this is not the right time.**”

IDF Conducted Commando Raid at Hezbollah Site in Syria

- Sept. 8: Israel conducted airstrikes on a secret Hezbollah facility and then **stormed the facility with 120 commandos who rappelled from helicopters to gather intelligence** from reinforced inner rooms buried deep underground. IDF soldiers then exploded bombs to destroy the facility in the 2.5 hour mission. 18 were killed and dozens wounded in the attack.
- The '**Scientific Studies and Research Center**' was a Hezbollah precision-guided missile manufacturing warehouse located in Syria reportedly run by Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Iran designed and funded this missile production facility with the capability to manufacture 150-300 missiles per year.
- Prior to the 2011 start of the Syrian civil war, the center developed chemical weapons. Israeli Air Force attacks targeted 4 Syrian military positions nearby and a building at the complex.



More American Support Arrives to the Region



US Visits to Region

- April 11: General Kurilla
- May 1: Secretary Blinken
- May 10-12: General Kurilla
- May 19: NSA Sullivan
- June 10: Secretary Blinken
- Aug 5: General Kurilla
- Aug 9: General Kurilla
- Aug. 19: Secretary Blinken
- Aug. 26: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr.
- Sept. 8: General Kurilla

May 1, Secretary Blinken: **"We are determined to get a ceasefire that brings the hostages home and to get it now, and the only reason that that wouldn't be achieved is because of Hamas.** There is a proposal on the table, and as we've said, no delays, no excuses.

US Announcements

- April 12: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned HAMAS Spokesperson Abu Ubaida as well as members of HAMAS' UAV unit.



More American Sanctions



US Announcements

- April 11, 2024: After votes in the House and the Senate, President Biden signed into law \$26 billion in assistance to Israel and humanitarian relief in Gaza.
- May 2: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned 5 persons and 2 entities in Lebanon and the UAE for financing Hezbollah and sanctions evasions by Hezbollah financial advisor Hassan Moukalled.
- **June 25: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned nearly 50 entities and people that operated a shadow banking network to finance the Iranian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL) and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), processing billions of dollars since 2020.**
- July 18: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned a dozen people and vessels that helped finance the Houthis, a network that provided tens of millions of dollars in revenue to the Houthis through the shipment of Iranian commodities.
- **July 30: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned 5 individuals and 7 entities based in Iran, China, and Hong Kong that facilitated Iran's procurement of parts for ballistic missiles and UAVs.**
- July 31: US Department of Treasury sanctioned 2 individuals and 4 companies in China, Hong Kong, and Yemen that facilitated weapons procurement for the Houthis.



Sept. 3: US Dept. of Justice Announces Terrorism Charges Against Hamas



US Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco: "Yahya Sinwar and the other senior leaders of Hamas are charged today with orchestrating this terrorist organization's decades-long campaign of mass violence and terror – including on October 7th.

On that horrible day, **Hamas terrorists viciously massacred nearly 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, including over 40 Americans, kidnapped hundreds more, and used sexual violence as a weapon of brutality."**

US Department of Justice: "Throughout Hamas' existence, the organization's ability to carry out acts of terrorism, including the October 7 Hamas Massacres, has been **fueled in part by the Government of Iran, particularly the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its Qods Force (IRGC-QF)** – the element of the IRGC responsible for conducting external terrorism operations and providing support to terrorist groups – which has **supported, supplied, and trained Hamas**, and by the Lebanon-based Shia Islamic terrorist organization Hizballah. **Hamas' attacks have played a significant role in the Government of Iran's regional and global campaign of supporting terrorism to weaken and ultimately destroy both the United States and Israel."**



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- April 8: US Forces struck a Houthi air defense system with 2 missiles ready to launch, a Houthi ground control station, and 1 UAS launched by the Houthis over the Red Sea. **Houthis fired an anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) against a cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden without injuries or damage.**
- April 9: **US Forces destroyed an incoming ASBM launched by Houthis at a US merchant vessel escorted by US warships.**
- April 10: US Forces destroyed 2 Houthi UAVs launched over the Gulf of Aden and one UAV launched over the Red Sea without injury or damage. In addition, **US Forces destroyed 8 UAVs in Houthi controlled areas in Yemen** in self defense.
- April 11: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi ASBM** launched by Houthis over the Red Sea.
- April 14: Houthis launched **1 ASBM** toward the Gulf of Aden with no injury or damage. **US Forces destroyed 4 Houthi UAVs launched from Yemen.**
- April 16: **US Forces destroyed 2 Houthi UAVs**
- April 24: **US Forces destroyed one Houthi ASBM launched from Yemen toward the Gulf of Aden targeting a US vessel.** US Forces also destroyed 4 airborne Houthi UAVs over Yemen.
- April 25: Houthis launched **one anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) into the Gulf of Aden** with no injury or damage. US Forces destroyed one Houthi USV and one Houthi UAV in Yemen.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- April 26: **Houthis launched 3 ASBM** into the Red Sea with minor damage of a UK vessel.
- April 28: US Forces destroyed **5 Houthi UAVs** over the Red Sea.
- April 29: **Houthis launched 3 ASBM and 3 UAVs into the Red Sea** towards a civilian vessel with no injuries. US Forces destroyed 1 Houthi UAV launched towards US vessels in the Red Sea.
- April 30: US Forces **destroyed a Houthi USV** in Yemen in self defense.
- May 2: US Forces **destroyed 3 Houthi UAS** in Yemen in self defense.
- May 6: US Forces **destroyed 1 Houthi UAS** launched over the Red Sea.
- May 7: **Houthis launched 3 UAS over the Gulf of Aden** from Houthi controlled areas in Yemen. One crashed, one was engaged by a coalition ship, and the third was destroyed by US Forces. Later, Houthis launched an anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) over the Gulf of Aden with no injuries or damage reported.
- May 11: Coalition forces destroyed a UAS launched by the Houthis over the Gulf of Aden and **US Forces destroyed 3 UAS launched by the Houthis over the Red Sea.**
- May 12: **US Forces destroyed 1 UAS launched by Houthis** over the Gulf of Aden.
- May 13: US Forces destroyed 1 UAS in a Houthi controlled area in Yemen. Later, the **US Forces destroyed one anti-ship ballistic missile and one UAS - both launched by the Houthis** over the Red Sea.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- May 15: US Forces destroyed **4 Houthi UASs** in a Houthi controlled area of Yemen.
- May 18: **Houthis launched 1 anti-ship ballistic missile and struck the M/T Wind oil tanker.** The tanker restored its steering and propulsion, and resumed its course from Russia to China.
- May 19: **Houthis launched 1 anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) over the Gulf of Aden** with no injuries or damage reported
- May 22: US Forces destroyed **4 Houthi UASs** in a Houthi controlled area of Yemen.
- May 23: **Houthis launched 2 ASBM into the Red Sea** with no injuries or damage reported.
- May 24: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi Land Attack Cruise Missile (LACM)** in a Houthi controlled area of Yemen.
- May 25: **Houthis launched 2 ASBM toward the Red Sea** with no injuries or damage reported.
- May 26: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi UAS over the Red Sea that presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels in the region.**
- May 27: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi UAS over the Red Sea that presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels in the region.**
- May 28: **Houthis launched 5 anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBM) into the Red Sea, striking the M/V Laax bulk carrier with 3 missiles.** In addition, US Forces destroyed 5 UAS launched from Yemen over the Red Sea.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- May 29: US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi missile launchers in Yemen and the Houthis launched 2 ASBM into the Red Sea with no injuries or damage.** US Forces also destroyed UAS over the Red Sea launched by Houthis in Yemen..
- May 30: US Forces destroyed **8 Houthi UAVs** in Houthi controlled areas of Yemen and, alongside UK Armed Forces, **struck 13 Houthi targets in Yemen.**
- May 31: US Forces destroyed one Houthi UAS over the Gulf of Aden and 3 Houthi UAS over the Red Sea. **Houthis launched 2 ASBMs into the Gulf of Aden and 1 UAS into the Red Sea,** which crashed with no injuries or damage.
- June 1: US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi ASBM fired at the USS Gravely and 1 Houthi UAS in the Red Sea,** as 2 other UAS crashed into the Red Sea.
- June 2: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi UAS** in the Red Sea.
- June 4: **Houthis launched 2 anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBM) into the Red Sea** with no injuries or damage.
- June 6: US Forces destroyed **8 Houthi UAS launched over the Red Sea and 2 USV in the Red Sea.** A coalition force also struck down 1 Houthi UAS over the Red Sea and Houthis launched 1 ASBM with no injuries or damage.

NBC: US Navy faces the “**most-intense maritime fighting since World War II**” with near-daily attacks targeting commercial vessels and warship.”



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- June 7: **Houthis launched 4 ASBM over the Red Sea with no injuries or damage.** US Forces destroyed 4 UASs and 2 ASBMs in Houthi areas of Yemen. US Forces destroyed one UAS launched into Bab al-Mandab Strait and destroyed one Houthi patrol boat in the Red Sea.
- June 9: **Houthis launched 2 ASBM into the Gulf of Aden** damaging the M/V Tawvishi container ship as well as **1 ASBM and 1 anti-ship cruise missile into the Gulf of Aden** damaging the M/V Norderney ship. US Forces also destroyed 1 UAS over the Gulf of Aden, and 2 Houthi LACM and 1 missile launcher in self defense in Yemen.
- June 10: Partner Forces destroyed **1 Houthi UAS** launched into the Gulf of Aden.
- June 11: US Forces destroyed **2 anti-ship cruise missile launchers in a Houthi area of Yemen** in self defense.
- June 12: US Forces destroyed **3 anti-ship cruise missile launchers in a Houthi area of Yemen and 1 Houthi UAS launched from Yemen over the Red Sea.** Houthis also launched 2 ASBM over the Red Sea with no injuries or damages. **One Houthi USV struck M/V Tutor vessel** in the Red Sea.
- June 13: US Forces acted in self defense to **destroy a Houthi air defense sensor, 1 Houthi USV in the Red Sea, and 2 Houthi patrol boats in the Red Sea.** US Forces also destroyed **one Houthi UAS** launched over the Red Sea.
 - Houthis launched 2 anti-ship cruise missiles into the Gulf of Aden striking and damaging the M/V Verbana bulk cargo carrier ship which was en route to Italy carrying wood construction material.
 - Houthis launched 2 ASBM into the Red Sea with no injuries or damage. Houthis struck the M/V Verbana again with a ASBM.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- June 14: the **M/V Tutor (attacked June 12) was sinking and the crew abandoned ship.** In addition, US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi USVs and 1 Houthi UAS in the Red Sea**. Separately, US Forces destroyed 7 Houthi radars in Yemen that allowed the Houthis to target maritime vessels.
- June 15: the **M/V Verbana (attacked June 13) had uncontrollable fires and the crew abandoned ship.**
- June 17: US Forces conducted a defensive strike at Houthi controlled areas in Yemen destroying **4 Houthi radars and 1 USV**. In addition, they **destroyed 1 Houthi UAV over the Red Sea**.
- June 18: US Forces conducted a defensive strike at Houthi controlled areas in Yemen destroying **8 Houthi UAS**. In addition, partner forces **destroyed one Houthi UAV over the Gulf of Aden**.
- June 19: US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi USV in the Red Sea** and conducted a defensive strike at Houthi controlled areas in Yemen destroying **1 Houthi ground control station and 1 command and control node**. **The M/V Tutor is confirmed to be the second ship sunk by the Houthis.**
- June 20: US Forces destroyed **4 Houthi unscrewed surface vessels (USV) in the Red Sea and 2 UAS over the Red Sea**.
- June 22: US Forces destroyed **3 Houthi USV in the Red Sea**. Houthis also launched **3 ASBM into the Gulf of Aden with no injuries or damage**.

Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- June 23: The **Houthis struck the M/V Trans World Navigator bulk cargo ship with a UAS causing injuries and damage.** This is the 4th attack by the Houthis on the ship.
- June 23: Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, U.S. military deputy commander in the Middle East gives an interview to CBS:
 - **U.S. has “about 7,000” sailors in the Red Sea and traffic through the Red Sea has been reduced by “40%”**
 - **“15% of global trade flows exactly through the Red Sea.** And so, keeping these vital waterways open is critical. It’s a core commitment the United States has from a strategic perspective, maintaining the free flow of commerce.”
 - CBS reported that: “Tesla and Volvo were both forced to suspend some European production in January due to supply chain disruptions.”
- June 26: US Forces **destroyed 1 Houthi radar site** in Yemen.
- June 27: US Forces **destroyed 1 UAS launched by the Houthis** into the Red Sea.
- June 28: US Forces **destroyed 7 Houthi UAVs and one ground control station** in Yemen.
- June 30: US Forces **destroyed 3 Houthi USVs** in the Red Sea.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- July 1: US Forces **destroyed 1 Houthi radar site** in Yemen.
- July 3: US Forces **destroyed 2 Houthi USVs in the Red Sea and 2 Houthi radar sites** in Yemen.
- July 4: US Forces **destroyed 2 Houthi USVs in the Red Sea and one Houthi radar** site in Yemen.
- July 7: EU naval forces destroyed **two unmanned aerial vehicles** in the Gulf of Aden and US Forces destroyed 2 Houthi UAVs in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.
- July 9: US Forces destroyed **one Houthi UAV** in Yemen
- July 10: US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi UAVs over and 1 USV in the Red Sea.**
- July 11: US Forces destroyed **5 Houthi USV and 2 UAS in the Red Sea**, as well as 1 Houthi UAS in Yemen.
- July 12: US Forces destroyed **3 UAVs in Yemen.**
- July 14: US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi UAVs and 1 USV in the Red Sea**, as well as 1 Houthi UAV in Yemen..
- July 15: US Forces destroyed **5 Houthi UAVs (3 over the Red Sea and 2 in Yemen).** The Houthis launched **multiple attacks against the MT Bentley 1 tanker** using 3 surface vessels (1 USV and 2 small boats) with no damages. The Houthis also launched an ASBM from Yemen over the Red Sea at the tanker with no injuries or damage reported. They also attacked the MT Chios Lion crude oil tanker with a USV in the Red Sea, causing damage.

Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- July 18: US Forces destroyed **2 surface-to-air missiles and 4 UAVs in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.**
- July 20: US Forces **destroyed 1 Houthi UAV over the Red Sea.**
- July 21: US Forces **destroyed 4 Houthi USVs in the Red Sea.**
- July 23: US Forces **destroyed 3 Houthi missile launchers in Yemen.**
- July 24: US Forces **destroyed 2 Houthi missiles on launchers in Yemen.**
- July 25: US Forces **destroyed 1 Houthi UAV launcher in Yemen.**
- July 26: US Forces **destroyed 6 Houthi UAVs in Yemen and 3 Houthi USVs off the coast of Yemen.**

On July 19, a **Houthi drone struck an apartment building in Tel Aviv** near the US Embassy branch office killing one civilian. The IDF claimed a human error in its aerial defense systems had allowed the drone to enter Israeli airspace. **This marked the Houthi's first successful attack inside Israel.** The drone used was a Samad-3 Iranian model that was adapted for long-distance flight with a larger fuel tank and engine, as well as a darker exterior paint color to evade Israeli air defenses. Israel's response (next slide) was to be **the first acknowledged Israeli counterstrike in Yemen despite over 220 Houthi attacks on Israel since October 7 2023.**



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- In response to the drone attack on Tel Aviv on July 19, **Israeli fighter jets struck the Yemeni port of Hodeida's oil storage tanks** on July 20 over 1,000 miles away, destroying approximately 18 of 28 oil tanks. The **port was also used by Iran to supply weapons to the Houthis**.
- Based on imagery from Israel's attack, one can conclude that only eight of the Hodeida oil tanks were full at the time (eight were shown burning; although more exploded, they may have been full of combustible vapor rather than oil products). If so, the **Houthis might have lost as much as \$60 million worth of products**. The Houthis claimed 80 people were wounded in the attack, with no deaths.
- Israel likely chose these targets because imported hydrocarbon products have become Iran's primary means of financing the Houthis. Tehran's hand is visible in the movements and ownership of many of the tankers that bring such products to the Houthi-held ports of Hodeida, al-Salif, and Ras Issa. The UN Panel of Experts on Yemen has been highlighting this problem since 2019, when it estimated that **Iran was providing \$30 million per month to sustain the Houthi war effort**.



The fire at the port of Hodeida after the Israeli strike on July 20.

Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- July 29: US Forces **destroyed 1 Houthi UAV in Yemen.**
- July 30: US Forces **destroyed 3 Houthi USV in the Red Sea.**
- Aug. 3: US Forces destroyed **one Houthi cruise missile** in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.
- Aug. 5: US Forces destroyed **destroyed 1 Houthi USV, 1 Houthi UAV and 1 ASBM in the Red Sea as well as 3 Houthi UASs over the Gulf of Aden.** US Forces also destroyed one Houthi UAS in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.
- Aug. 6: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi UAV and 2 ASBMs launched over the Red Sea.**
- Aug. 7: US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi UAVs, 1 Houthi ground control station and 3 ASBMs** in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.
- Aug. 8: US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi anti-ship cruise missiles and 1 Houthi ground control station** in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, as well as **one Houthi USV in the Red Sea.**
- Aug. 9: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi missile launcher and 1 USV** in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen. In addition, US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi UAVs over the Red Sea.**
- Aug. 13: US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi vessels in the Red Sea.**
- Aug. 15: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi ground control station** in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Aug. 16: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi USD in the Red Sea**.
- Aug. 18: US Forces destroyed **1 UAV in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen**.
- Aug. 21: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi surface-to-air missile and radar system** in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.

On August 21, the Houthis attacked the MV Delta Sounion which was carrying 1 million barrels of crude oil in the Red Sea with gunfire and unidentified projectiles that sparked a fire and left it without engine power. Later, the Houthis planted explosives onto the ship. If a spill occurs, it would be among the largest from a ship in recorded history, four times the size of the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster. By September 16, the ship was towed to safety without its oil leaking.



The 25 crew members of the MV Sounion (pictured above) were rescued in an operation that required a EU warship to destroy a Houthi USV (pictured below).



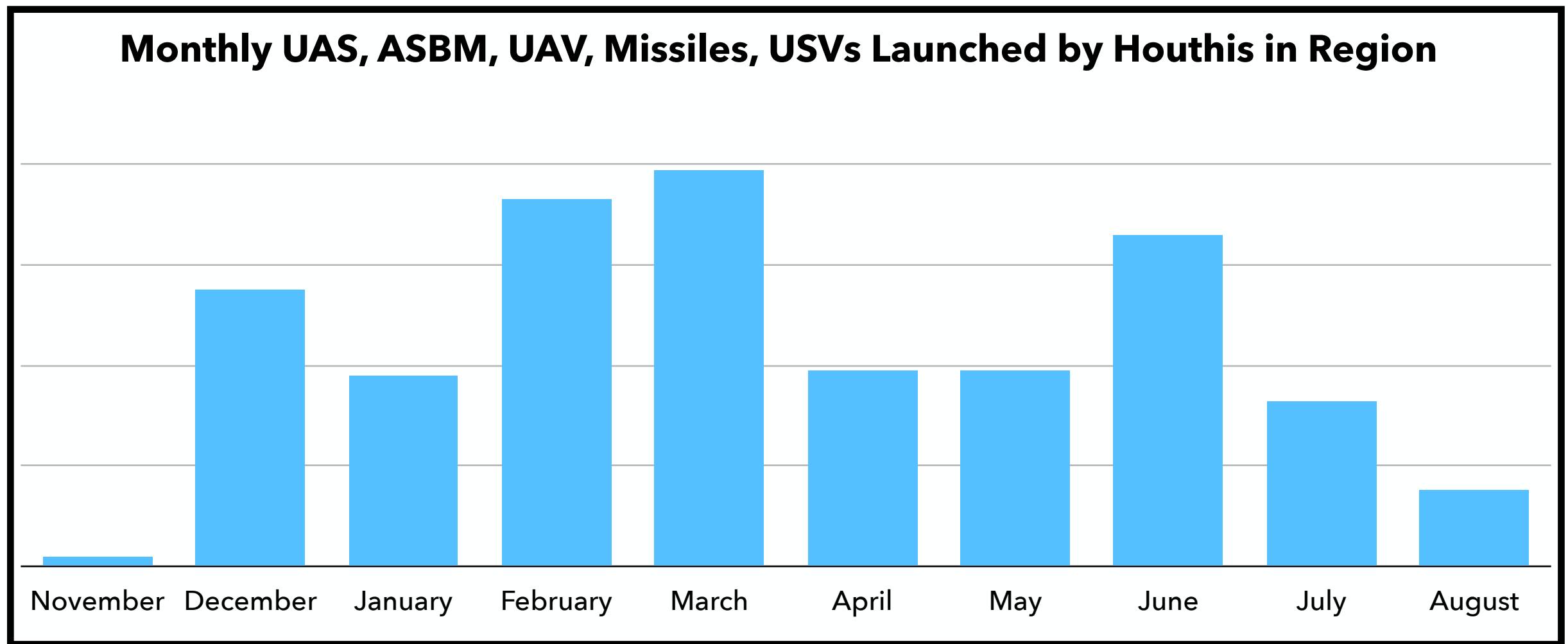
Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Aug. 22: US Forces destroyed **2 Houthi UAVs over the Red Sea and 1 UAV in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Aug. 23: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi missile system in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Aug. 29: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi missile system and 1 UAV in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Aug. 30: US Forces destroyed **2 UAVs in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Aug. 31: US Forces destroyed **1 UAV and 1 USV in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Sept. 2: **Houthis attacked 2 crude tankers (MV Blue Lagoon and MV Amjad which was carrying ~2 million barrels of oil) with 2 ballistic missiles and a one-way attack unmanned aerial system, hitting both vessels.** US Forces also destroyed 2 Houthi missile systems in Yemen.
- Sept. 3: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi missile system in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Sept. 6: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi UAV and 1 Houthi vehicle in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Sept. 8: US Forces destroyed **3 Houthi UAVs and 1 Houthi missile system in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Sept. 9: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi vehicle and 2 Houthi missile system in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen in addition to 1 UAV over the Red Sea.**
- Sept. 10: US Forces destroyed **5 Houthi UAV and 2 Houthi missile systems in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Sept. 11: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi missile system in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Sept. 13: US Forces destroyed **3 Houthi UAVs and 1 Houthi vehicle in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Sept. 15: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi missile system in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

- April 9: **USAF** dropped 50,600 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 10: **USAF** dropped 50,680 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 10: **USAF** dropped 6,000 pounds of food into Northern Gaza.
- April 16: **USAF** dropped 25,300 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 18: **USAF** dropped 50,600 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 21: **USAF** dropped 50,688 meal equivalents into Northern Gaza.
- April 23: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped 30,016 Meals Ready to Eat and 6,000 pounds of Jordanian food supplies into Northern Gaza.
- April 25: **USAF** dropped over 25,000 Meals Ready to Eat into Northern Gaza.
- April 28: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped 25,000 Meals Ready to Eat and 13,080 meal equivalents of Jordanian food supplies into Northern Gaza.
- April 30: **USAF** and **RJAF** dropped 25,000 Meals Ready to Eat and 13,000 meal equivalents of Jordanian food supplies into Northern Gaza.

US State Dept. on May 3: "**HAMAS managed to seize a major shipment of humanitarian aid** that was delivered to Gaza."



US Military Leads Airdrops Over North Gaza

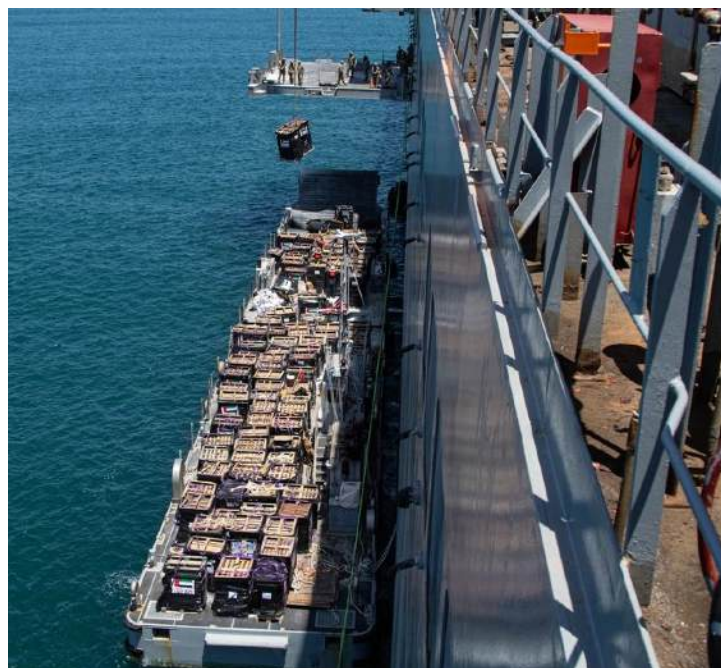
- May 5: **USAF dropped over 25,000 Meals Ready to Eat** into Northern Gaza.
- May 7: **USAF and RJAF dropped 25,000 Meals Ready to Eat and 13,000 meal equivalents of Jordanian food supplies** into Northern Gaza.
- May 9: **USAF and RJAF dropped 25,300 Meals Ready to Eat and 6,000 pounds of Jordanian food supplies** into Northern Gaza.
- June 9: **USAF dropped over 10 metric tons of Meals Ready to Eat** into Northern Gaza. To date the US has airdropped over 1,050 metric tons of humanitarian assistance in addition to assistance delivered via the JLOTS.



US Air Force preparing to drop Meals Ready to Eat on May 9 2024

\$230M JLOTS Connected and Reconnected to Gaza Shore

- May 16: the JLOTS was anchored to the beach in Gaza and on May 17 trucks began to deliver humanitarian aid from the pier into Gaza.
- May 25: four US vessels broke free from the pier.
- June 8: ~1.1 million pounds of humanitarian assistance delivered by US Forces onshore. To date, US CENTCOM assisted in the delivery of more than 3.5 million pounds of humanitarian aid.
- June 14: JLOTS pier relocated from Gaza to Ashdod due to high seas. Since May 17, over 3,500 metric tons (7.7 million pounds) of humanitarian aid has been delivered through the maritime corridor.
- June 20: JLOTS pier re-anchored to the Gazan shore and 656 metric tons (1.4 million pounds) of aid were delivered but on June 24 operations at the JLOTS pier were paused for maintenance
- July 11: US National Security Advisor Sullivan says: “we will wind down pier operations” which they did on July 18.



Humanitarian Aid Enters Gaza via Land, Air, and Sea

- May 3: **IDF opened the Erez Crossing** for the first time since October 7 to allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza, after it had been destroyed by HAMAS on October 7.
- May 5: **HAMAS fired rockets from Rafah at Kerem Shalom humanitarian aid crossing, killing 4 IDF soldiers.**
- May 6: **HAMAS launched 4 mortar shells and 2 rockets from Rafah towards Keren Shalom area.**
- May 7: **HAMAS launched over 17 rockets from Rafah to the area of Keren Shalom humanitarian aid crossing and Re'im (site of the Nova Festival).**
- May 11: **IDF coordinates the opening of a new field hospital** for Gazan civilians in central Gaza.

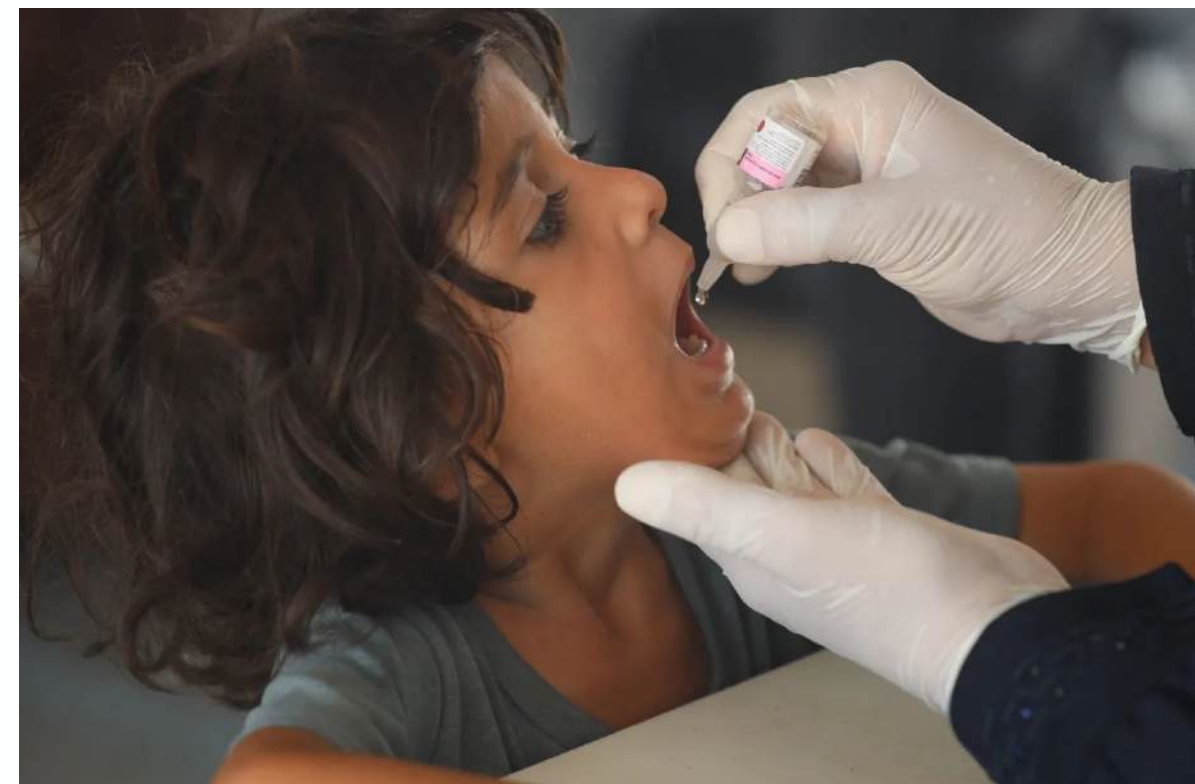
May 12: IDF opened an additional land aid crossing into Gaza called Erez West (see image)



Opening of the Western Erez Crossing for Humanitarian Aid for the First Time

Spotlight: Poliovirus and Vaccination in Gaza

- July: Polio was discovered in samples of wastewater in Gaza.
- Aug. 27: **10-month old Abdel-Rahman became the first confirmed case of polio in Gaza in 25 years.**
- Sept. 1: The IDF confirmed it had facilitated the transfer of enough polio vaccines for more than 1 million Gazans and would pause military operations to allow for the distribution. **A 12-day UN campaign to vaccinate children in Gaza began, with a target of immunizing 640,000 children in Gaza (over 90% of the children under the age of 10) and within two days had reached 25% of its goal.**



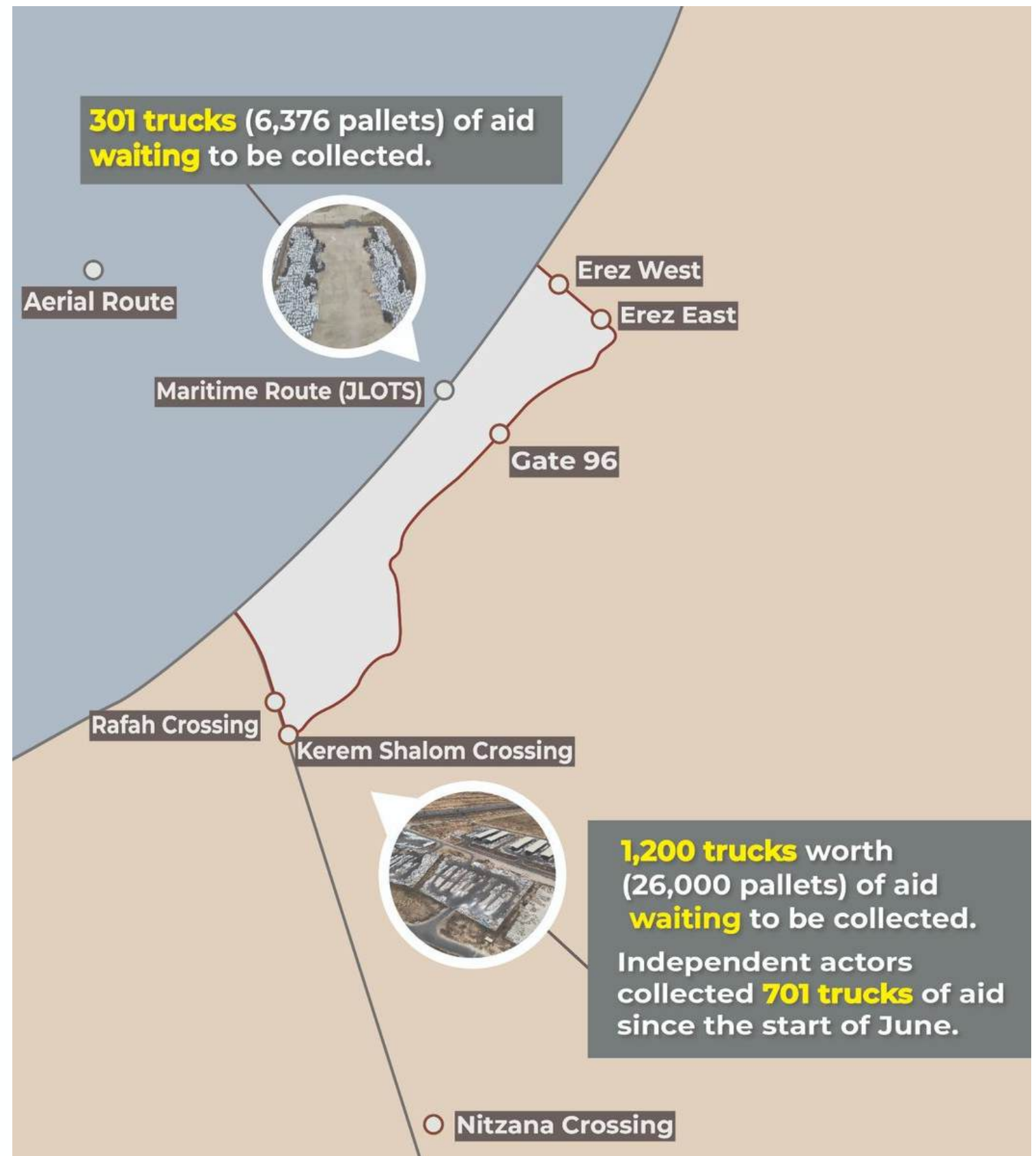
A child in central Gaza receives a polio vaccine. By November 3, nearly 94,000 children in Gaza City received their second dose of polio.

Increasing Humanitarian Aid Delivered to Gaza

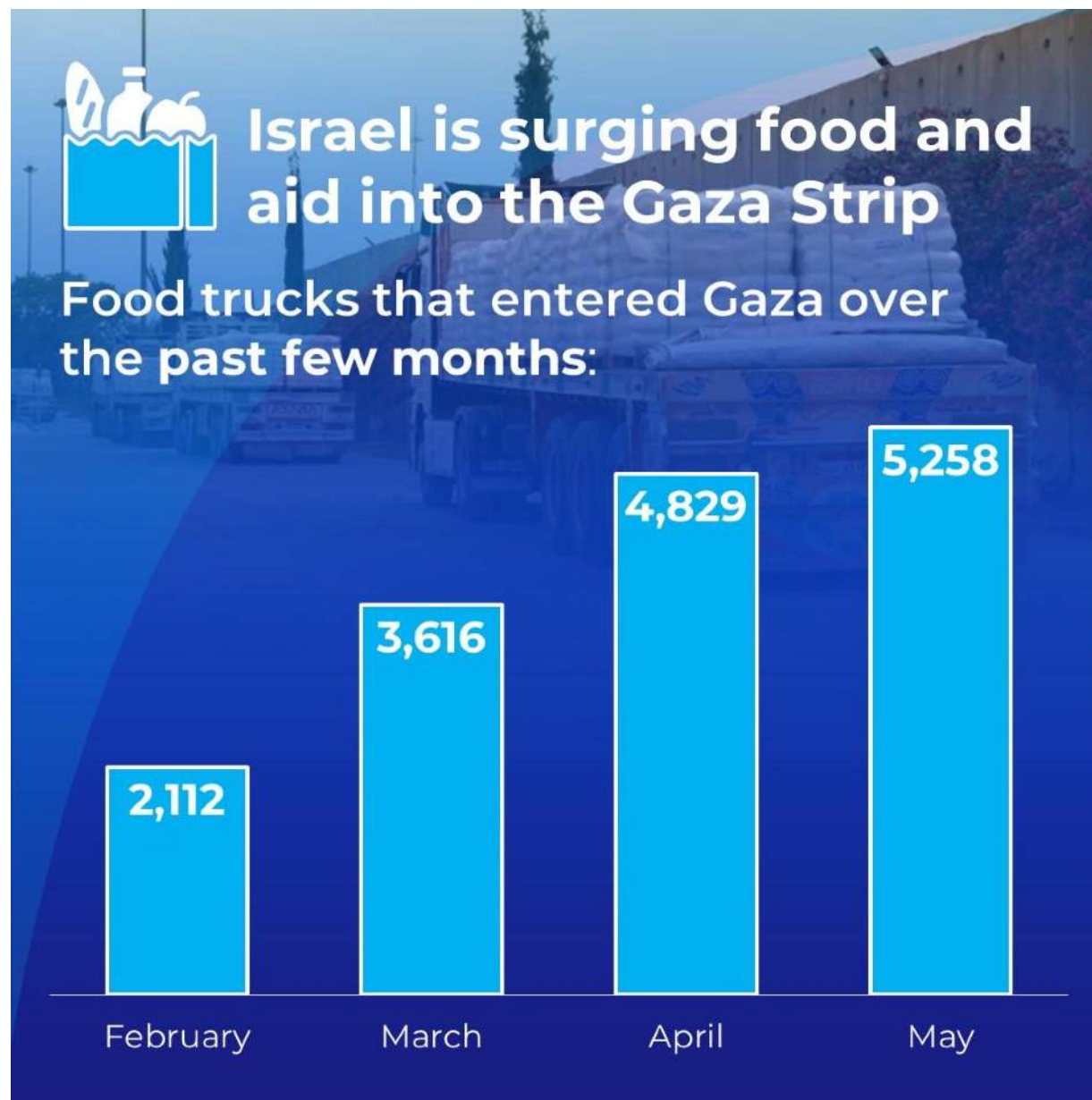


Increasing Humanitarian Aid Delivered to Gaza

- June 25: A backlog of over 1,500 trucks worth of aid were waiting to be collected and distributed.



Increasing Humanitarian Aid Delivered to Gaza



- June 13: Israel confirms that **over one billion pounds of food were transferred to Gaza** since October 7 2023.
- July 2: New York Times reports that the **IDF laid a power line to a desalination plant in Khan Younis to bolster output, with the PA paying for the electricity and UNICEF managing the plant.**
- July 11: US National Security Advisor Sullivan: **"The real issue right now is not about getting aid into Gaza. It's about getting aid around Gaza** effectively. But there are a lot of things that we need to work through, including lawlessness and armed gangs. In some cases, Hamas itself is trying to disrupt and derail the delivery of humanitarian assistance."

PM Netanyahu Outlines 4 Point Plan for Gaza's Future

1. Sustained Demilitarization
2. Civilian Administration
3. Deradicalization
4. Reconstruction

PM Netanyahu to Punchbowl News on June 21: "I think we're going to have to have **sustained demilitarization**, which can only be done by Israel against any resurgent terrorist effort. But I think there has to be a **civilian administration** to administer not only the distribution of humanitarian aid but also civil administration. That has to be done, I think best done, with the cooperation of an inter-Arab sponsorship and assistance by Arab countries. And then the third thing would be obviously some kind of **deradicalization process** that would begin in the schools and the mosques to teach these people a different future than the one of annihilating Israel and killing every Jew on the planet. And the fourth, it would be **reconstruction**, which would be largely taken, I think, by the international community."



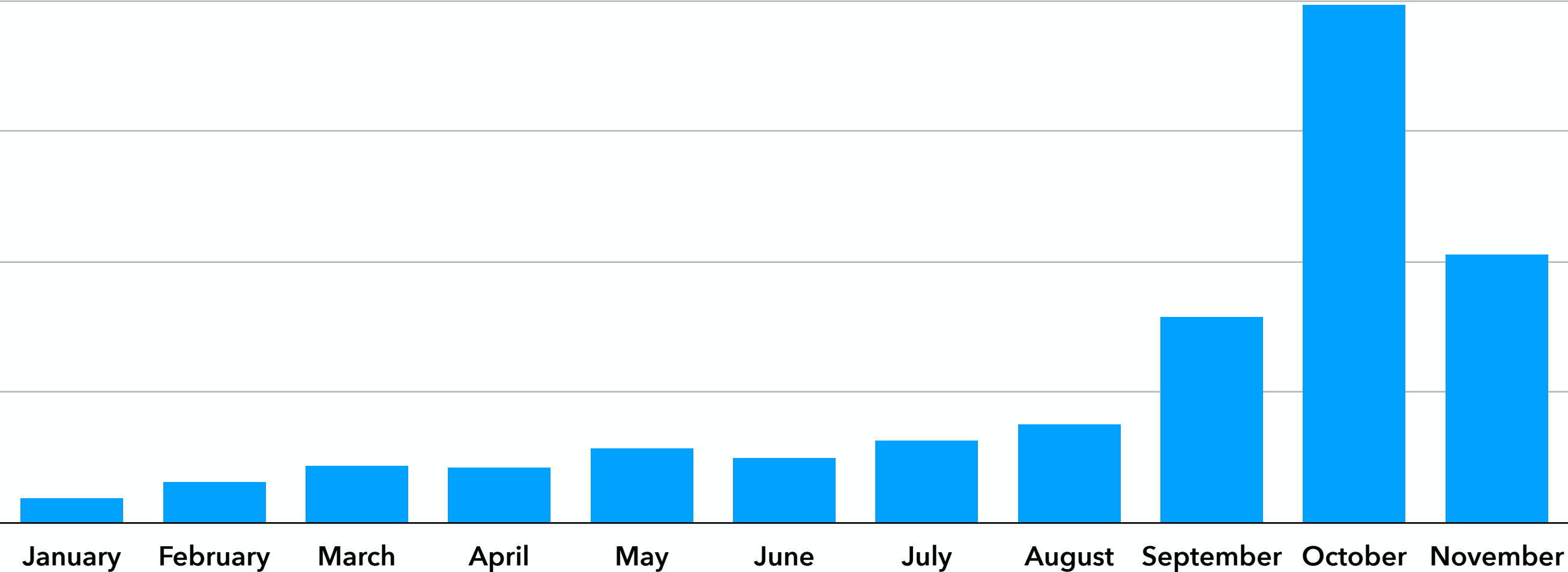
Phase 7: Officially a Regional War

Sept. 16 - Dec. 4, 2024

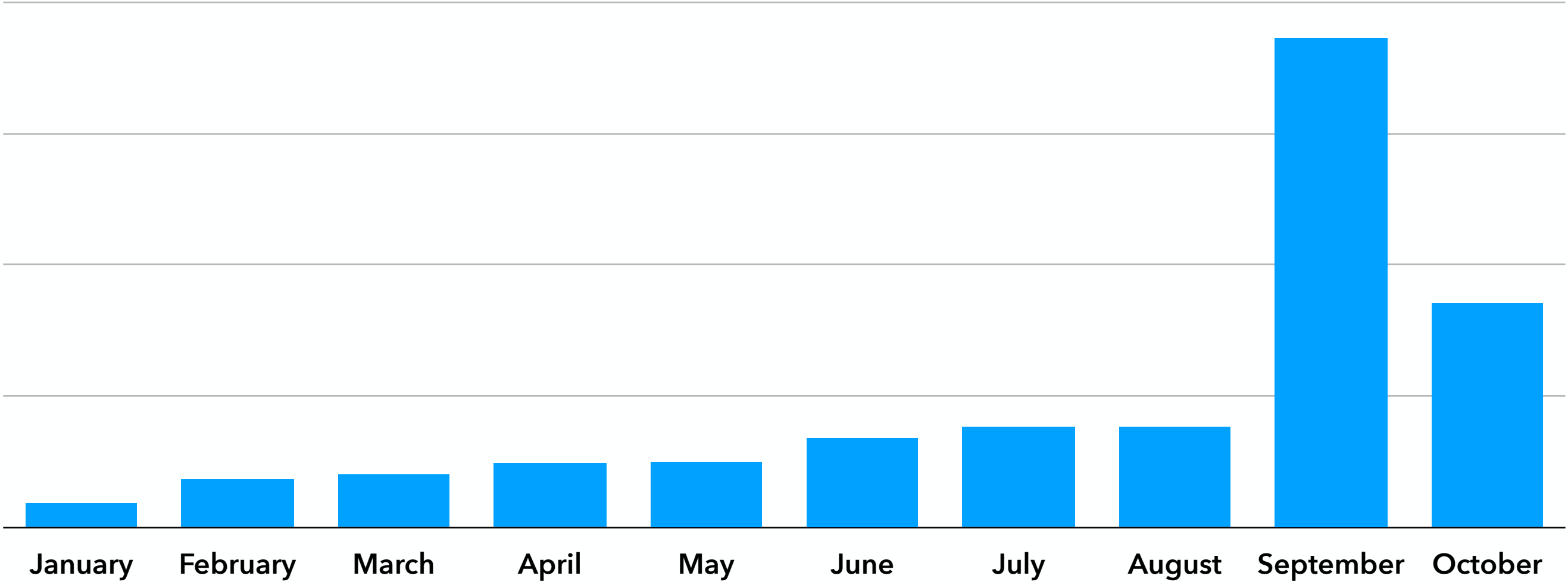
*Israel Fights in Gaza, Lebanon,
Iraq, Iran, & Yemen*



Rocket Launches into Northern Israel 2024

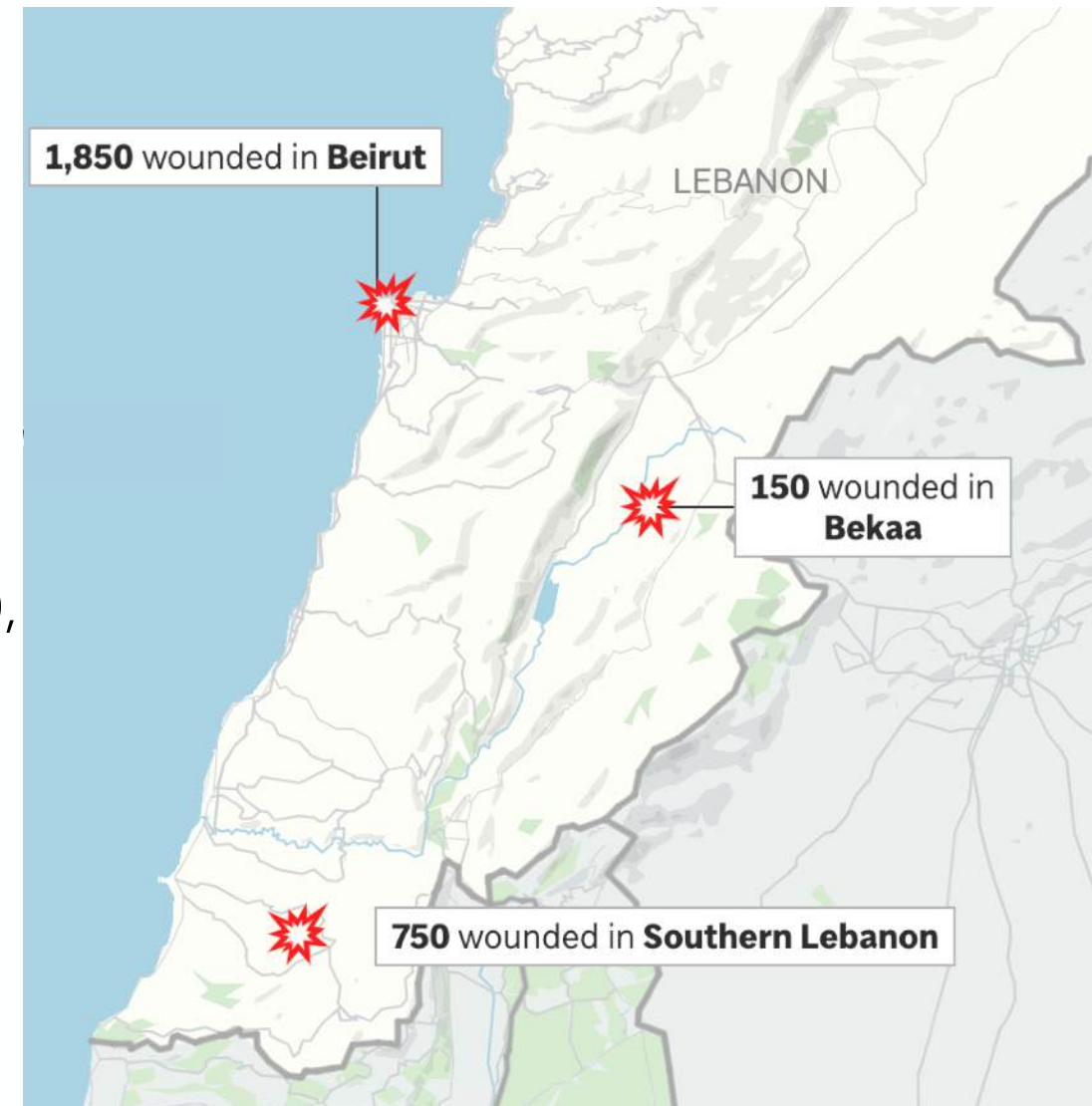


Emergency Alerts in Northern Israel 2024



Israel Changed Its Strategy Against Hezbollah

- September 16: The Israeli government made **"the safe return of residents to the north of the country"** an **official goal of the war**, leading to a change of Israeli strategy from aggressive defense to a strategy of offense with an operation called "Northern Arrows."
- September 17: **3,000-4,000 pagers used by Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon and Syria exploded simultaneously**, killing at least 9 people and injuring 3,000, including Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon. The Mossad spy agency had planted explosives inside 5,000 pagers ordered by Hezbollah in an operation that began in 2022.
- September 18: Approximately **1,000 Hezbollah walkie talkies exploded** across the country in a second wave of attack that began by the Mossad in 2015. In response to the attacks, Hezbollah began to double its daily artillery strikes onto Northern Israel.



Results of the beeper explosions.

IDF Decimated Hezbollah's Elite Radwan Force

- September 20: **IDF struck a meeting of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force** in the Dahya suburb of Beirut, killing 14 commanders including **Ibrahim Aqil, a senior Hezbollah leader.**
- **Aqil was the Deputy Commander of Hezbollah's Armed Forces and head of all of its operations** who had a \$7M reward on his head from the US government for his involvement in the 1983 attacks at the US Embassy and Marine Corps barracks. Hezbollah unsuccessfully tried to respond by firing rockets at Tel Aviv.



Senior Hezbollah leader Ibrahim Aqil, Deputy Commander of Hezbollah's Armed Forces.

Lebanese Residents Warned to Evacuate

- September 23: For the first time, **the IDF warned civilians in Southern and Eastern Lebanon to evacuate** via Arabic spokespeople and by sending 80,000 text and voice messages to Lebanese mobile phones. Residents of specific buildings in Dahya suburb of Beirut received warnings that the buildings concealed Hezbollah weapons and they needed to evacuate.

Evacuation orders were sent to Lebanese communities in Southern Lebanon that were south of the Litani at first but then later included communities north of the Litani. Evacuation orders directed civilians to move north of the Awali River, **suggesting the IDF ground invasion would continue deep past the Litani River.**

Israeli Air Force Continued Strikes Against Hezbollah

- September 24: **Israeli Air Force conducted 600 strikes against Hezbollah targets,** including killing Ibrahim Qabisi, Commander of Hezbollah's Missiles and Rocket force who was also in charge of the abduction of 3 Israeli soldiers in 2000.
- September 25 & 26: The Israeli Air Force conducted 220-250 strikes daily against Hezbollah targets while Hezbollah fired 150-300 rockets at Israel each day.



Hezbollah Commander Ibrahim
Muhammad Qabisi

IDF Eliminates Hezbollah Leader Hassan Nasrallah

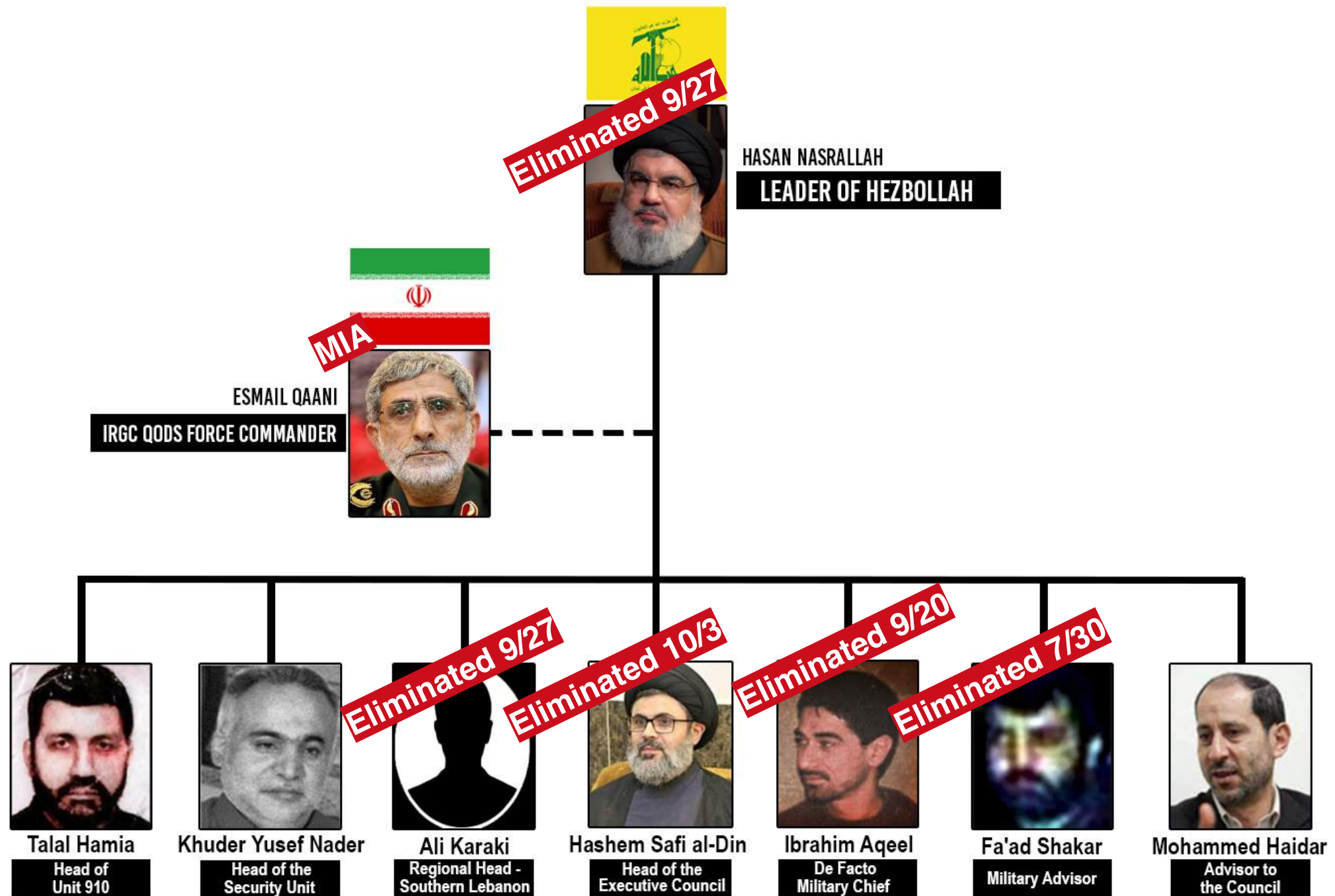
- September 27: The **IDF struck Hezbollah headquarters in the Dahya suburb of Beirut with 80 bombs, killing Hassan Nasrallah**, Hezbollah's supreme political and military leader and General Secretary since 1992, and Ali Karki, the commander of Hezbollah's Southern command.

White House, September 28: **"Hassan Nasrallah and the terrorist group he led, Hezbollah, were responsible for killing hundreds of Americans"**



Hassan Nasrallah, General Secretary of Hezbollah prior to his death.

Hezbollah's Jihad Council - Military High Command

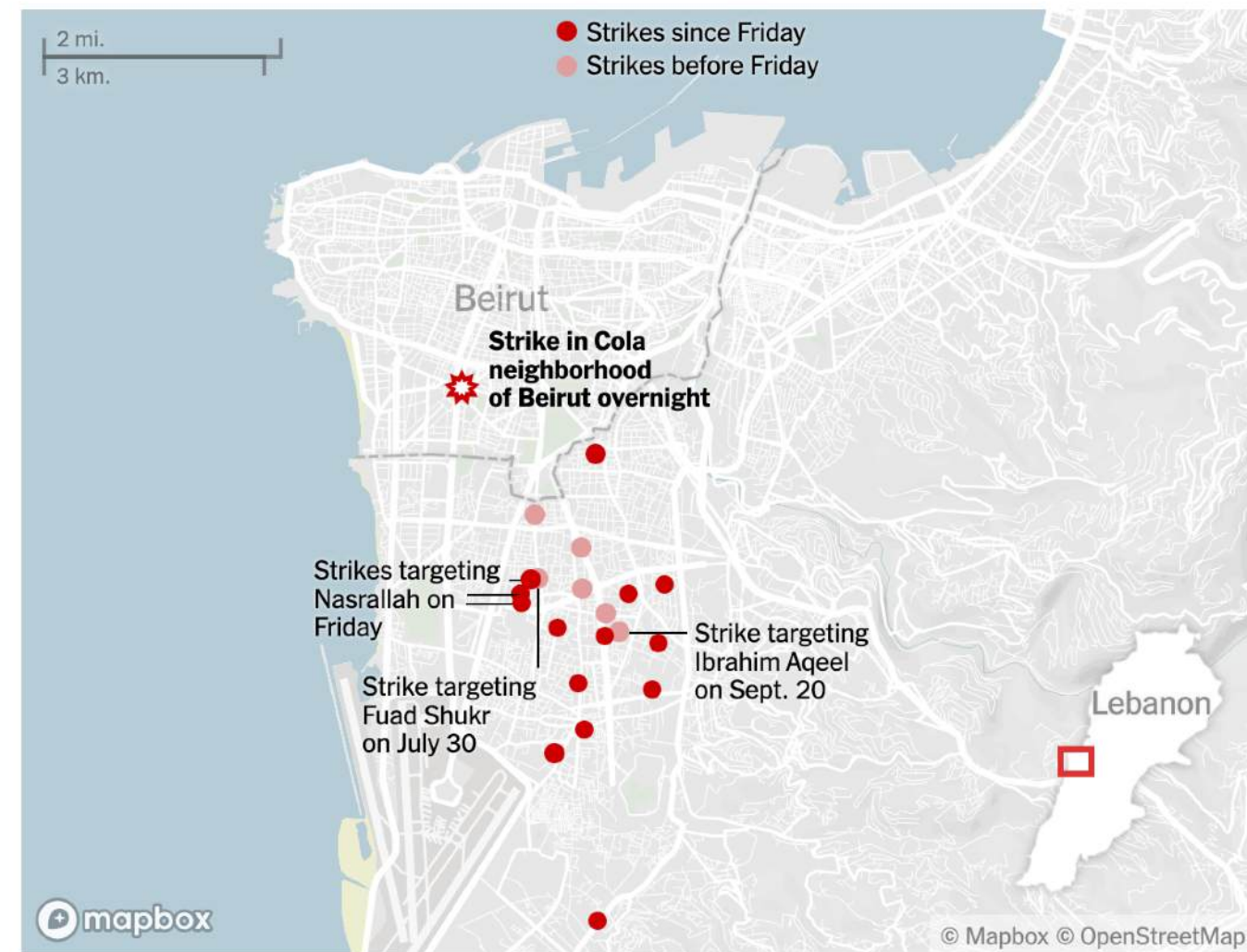


IDF Commando Raids Enter Lebanon, Beirut Attacked

- September 28: **IDF commandos began raids into Lebanon** to prepare territory for a ground invasion.
- The **IDF attacked the center of Beirut for the first time since 2006**, killing PFLP terrorist organization operatives. The IDF also killed **Hamas terrorist Fateh Sharif who was a UNRWA employee and Chairman of the UNRWA teachers union.**

Strike in Beirut's Cola neighborhood

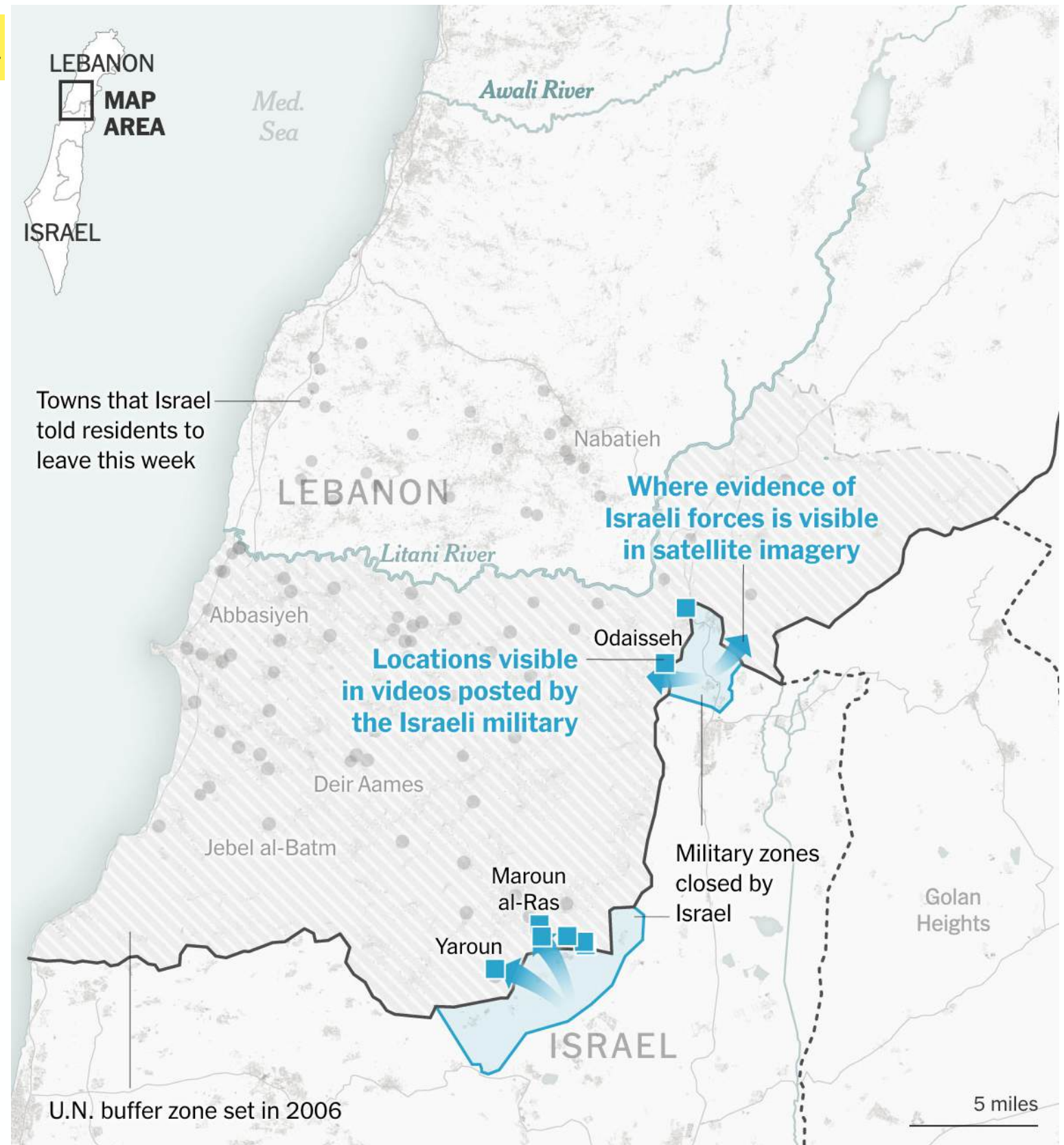
The strike appeared to be Israel's first in central Beirut since 2006.



Note: Locations are not comprehensive. Locations were verified through videos and photographs or were reported by the Israeli military. By Lauren Leatherby, Sanjana Varghese and Aric Toler

IDF Ground Forces Entered Lebanon

- September 30: **IDF forces entered Lebanon** with the mission of destroying Hezbollah infrastructure, weapons, and terrorists along the Lebanon-Israel border. The Deputy Leader of Hezbollah, Sheikh Naim Kassem, addressed Hezbollah's followers and promised a new leader would be announced soon.
- IDF's 98th Division and 36th Division led the operation, with 91st Division joining days later. Each division has about 10,000 soldiers.



IDF Ground Forces Entered Lebanon

- October 1: IDF and American officials believe that **Israeli Air Force strikes through September 2024 succeeded in destroying half of the estimated 120,000 - 200,000 missiles and rockets that Hezbollah had accumulated** over the last 30 years.
- October 3: **IDF attacked a meeting of senior Hezbollah leaders including the presumed successor to Hassan Nasrallah, Hashim Safieddine** in a strike near Beirut. In 1998 he was elected to lead the Executive Council of Hezbollah. **Already in 1997, the US government and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia designated Safieddine a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.** He has been out of contact since the strike.
- October 3: **Suicide drone launched by the Islamic Resistance of Iraq** (IRI) killed 2 IDF soldiers and injured 24 at a base in the Golan Heights. The IRI is the umbrella of Iran-backed militias in Iraq.
- October 5: **IDF assassinated Muhammad Hussein Ali al-Mahmoud, Hamas' executive authority in Lebanon.** This followed the assassination in Lebanon of Hamas commander Said Ali several days prior.
- October 2 - October 5: Over 800 rockets and missiles were fired into Israel from Lebanon



IDF Soldiers Clear Hezbollah Weapons from Southern Lebanon

Results of an IDF raid on an underground weapons cache under a house in Southern Lebanon which included anti-tank missiles, firearms, and Hezbollah Radwan forces uniforms.



IDF soldiers located and dismantled a weapons storage facility inside a civilian home in Southern Lebanon.



Rocket launcher found by the IDF in a home in Southern Lebanon.



IDF Ground Forces Entered Lebanon

- After a month inside Lebanon, the IDF reported:
 - **Israeli soldiers encountered little resistance from Hezbollah fighters** in the form of face-to-face combat.
 - Hezbollah operatives escaped northward as the IDF entered Lebanon, but **Hezbollah left behind explosive devices and booby traps**, and they continued to bombard Israeli forces and Israel itself with rockets, mortar fire and attack drones from their new lines.
- November 2: **Israel's Navy Seals (Shayetet 13) abducted a senior Hezbollah operative alive from an apartment building in Lebanon** after having landed via speedboats. The commandos arrived to Batroun, 20 miles north of Beirut, disguised as local Lebanese security officials and took the Hezbollah operative back to Israel for interrogation.
- November 11: IDF issues **new evacuation warnings across 20 towns and villages in Southern Lebanon** urging civilians to evacuate north of the Awali River.



Nasrallah Replaced by Naim Qassem

- Oct. 29: **Hezbollah announced Naim Qassem, the longtime Deputy Leader as the new Secretary General of Hezbollah.** He has been involved in Hezbollah since its formation and Deputy Leader since 1991. **The US Dept. of Treasury imposed sanctions on Qassem in 2018.**



Israel-Lebanon Ceasefire

- November 27: **A ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon that was brokered by the US and France went into effect.** The text of the agreement was not released publicly.
- November 27: **US government approves a \$680 million arms package for Israel**, possibly a sweetener to the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire agreement. The package will include hundreds of small-diameter bombs and thousands of joint direct attack munitions kits (JDAMs) which convert “dumb” bombs into precision-guided weapons.
- December 2: Hezbollah fired at Israeli territory for the first time since the ceasefire was reached, prompting an aerial response from the IDF against dozens of Hezbollah missile launchers in Lebanon.

Dec. 4: US intelligence told Reuters that **Hezbollah in recent weeks had begun to recruit new fighters and was already trying to find ways to rearm through domestic production and by smuggling materials through Syria.**

Israel-Lebanon Ceasefire Terms

- The agreement **allows both Israel and Lebanon to exercise their right to self defense** consistent with international law.
- **Israel agreed to:**
 - Cease all “offensive military operations against Lebanese targets”
 - Gradually withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon over the next 60 days
- **Hezbollah agreed to:**
 - Retreat north to the Litani River, 17 miles away from Israel’s border, allowing the Lebanese military to deploy in that area
 - The Lebanese Army is expected to oversee and enforce security between the Litani River and the Lebanese-Israel border.
- **A side deal between the US and Israel supported Israel’s enforcement of the ceasefire including acting against any violations** in southern Lebanon at any time, acting against any immediate time-critical threats throughout Lebanon, and continuing surveillance flights over Lebanon as long as they do not break the sound barrier.
- US Head of US Special Ops. Command Central Maj. Gen. Jasper Jeffries will co-chair the US side of the ceasefire with Amos Hochstein during the transition period. Maj. Gen. Jeffries will focus on violations such as rocket launcher deployments south of the Litani, tunnel construction, and weapons manufacturing. Investigations into violations will take place within a day after a complaint is made.



Israel-Lebanon Ceasefire - IDF Activities By the Numbers

- Upon the signing of the ceasefire agreement, the IDF announced it had confiscated from Hezbollah:
 - 12,000 bombs, drones, and explosive weapons
 - 13,000 anti-tank missiles, anti-aircraft rockets and missiles
 - 121,000 communications devices, computers, electronic equipment and documents
- Female Israeli combat intelligence soldiers conducted operations in Lebanon for the first time in history

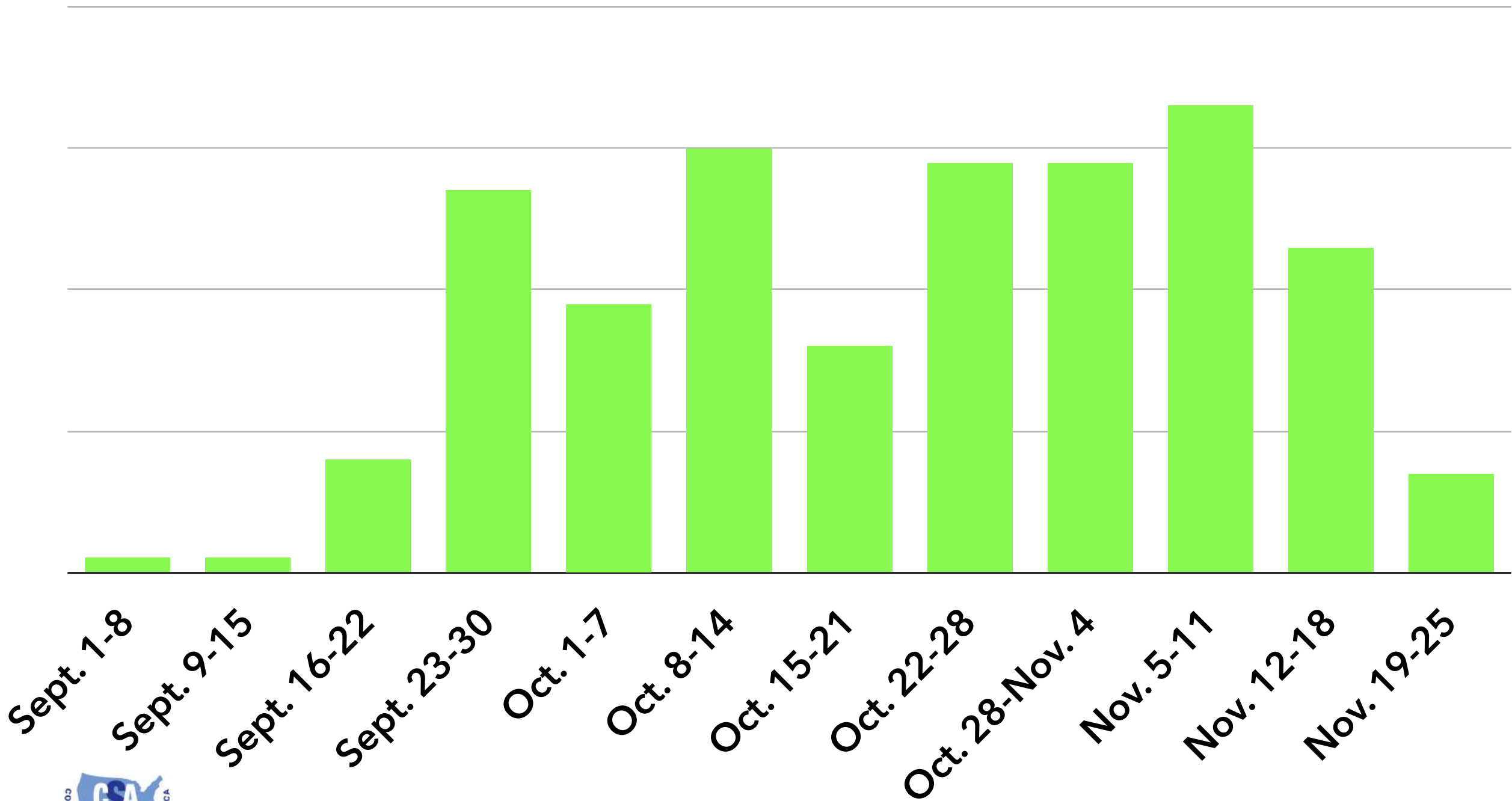


Confiscated Hezzbollah vehicles and weapons on display at an IDF base on 11/25/24.



Iraqi Militias Increase Then Decrease Claimed Attacks on Israel

Munitions Claimed Fired at Israel by Islamic Resistance in Iraq (IRI) August - November 2024



More American Sanctions, Gen. Kurilla Visits to Region



- Nov. 14: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned 26 companies, people, and vessels associated with a **Syrian conglomerate that financed Iran's IRGC Quds Force and the Houthis** via the sale of Iranian oil to Syria and China.
- Nov. 22: CENTCOM Commander Gen. Kurilla visits Israel and meets with IDF Chief of Staff Halevi and IDF Northern Commander Maj. Gen. Ori Gordin.
- Dec. 3: US Dept. of Treasury imposed **sanctions on 35 entities and vessels that transported illicit Iranian petroleum to foreign markets**, known as the Iranian Shadow Fleet.

Dec. 3, US Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Bradley T. Smith:

"Iran continues to funnel revenues from its petroleum trade toward the development of its nuclear program, proliferation of its ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology, and sponsorship of its regional terrorist proxies, risking further destabilizing the region."



With Attention on Northern Border, Gaza Operations Continue

- October 5: IDF announced evacuation orders to Gazan civilians in central Gaza neighborhoods of Nuseirat and Bureij due to increasing Hamas terrorist activities in the area.
- October 6: Israeli ground forces began an operation alongside the Israeli Air Force surrounding Jabaliya in Northern Gaza, targeting Hamas' efforts to reestablish control of the area. This was Israel's fourth operation into Jabaliya in the last year.
- In Northern Gaza, HAMAS acted throughout October more as a guerrilla force than organized military in control of Gaza. **Small groups of fighters emerge from underground to booby trap buildings, set roadside bombs, attach mines to IDF tanks, and fire RPGs at IDF soldiers before returning underground. In October, IDF captured 500 suspected HAMAS fighters and killed 750.**

In 2014 as ISIS conquered northern Iraq and committed genocide against the Yazidi people, **Fawzia Amin Sido, then age 11, was abducted by ISIS in Iraq and sold to a member of Hamas** who took her to Gaza. While in Gaza she experienced rape and abuse by her Palestinian Hamas and ISIS member. **On October 2, Fawzia was rescued by Israel in Gaza and returned to Iraq.**



Death of October 7 Mastermind, Hamas Leader Yahya Sinwar

- **Ultimately, the leader of HAMAS in Gaza Yahya Sinwar was killed by the IDF.** He was shot in the head and a tank flattened the building he was in on Wednesday October 16, 2024 in Rafah's Tel al-Sultan neighborhood. **He was killed above ground just a few hundred yards from a tunnel complex where he had hid during the summer and where 6 Israeli hostages were killed in August.**
- January of 2024: **Israeli commandos raided an elaborate underground fortress in Khan Younis** based on intelligence that Sinwar was hiding there. He had fled just days prior.
- Summer 2024: **Sinwar's whereabouts were unknown** as he abandoned electronic communications to avoid American and Israeli surveillance. He used human couriers to communicate and traveled between Rafah and Khan Yours.
- August of 2024: **Israeli intelligence noticed that likely terrorists in Tel al-Sultan moved around with their faces covered, often surrounded by guards** which suggested that they were HAMAS officials or hostages.



The body of Yahya Sinwar upon his death in Rafah.

Death of October 7 Mastermind, Hamas Leader Yahya Sinwar

- August 31 2024: **IDF recovered the bodies of 6 murdered hostages** in an underground tunnel complex in Tel al-Sultan, having been executed just days prior.
- September of 2024: **While investigating the same tunnel complex in Tel al-Sultan, a urine sample tested by the IDF matched Sinwar's DNA.** IDF troops increased patrols in the neighborhood in order to search for more evidence.
- October 16 2024: **IDF troops conducting routine patrols in the neighborhood identified 3 suspicious men moving from house to house**, with one trailing the other two. A firefight broke out and 1 IDF soldier was wounded. Two men fled into a building while one man (Sinwar) fled to another nearby building. After the first two terrorists were killed, a drone was used to examine the building with the other man. The drone entered a ruined house from the upper floor and captured footage of an injured Sinwar, with his face covered. **A sniper shot Sinwar in the head and a tank fired at the building.** As it was already getting dark, the troops did not approach the building.
- October 17 2024: IDF returns to the building in the morning, finding automatic weapons, thousands of collars worth of Israeli shekels, a pamphlet with prayer versus and a packet of Mentos. **The finger of the terrorist was cut off and sent for DNA testing along with pictures of his teeth. Based on fingerprints and dental records from Israel's prison service, Sinwar was identified as dead.**



New Information on October 7 Attack - Revealed

- In January 2024, **Yahya Sinwar fled his underground compound in Khan Younis in a hurry, leaving behind a computer that held a trove of notes** from meetings he led over the previous few years preparing for the October 7 massacre. The documents revealed the years long planning of the October 7 massacre as well as Sinwar's attempts to persuade Iran and Hezbollah to join the assault and support HAMAS.
- The documents consist of **minutes from 10 secret planning meetings of a small group of HAMAS leaders leading up to the October 7 massacre**, including 30 pages of details about the way HAMAS' leadership works and the preparations that went into its attack.
- **Coordination with allies:**
 - A senior Iranian commander told HAMAS that **Iran and Hezbollah were supportive of the attack plans** in principle, but needed more time to prepare.
 - The documents said that HAMAS planned to discuss the attack in more detail at a subsequent meeting with Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader at the time.
 - **HAMAS felt assured of its allies' general support**, but concluded it might need to go ahead without their full involvement

HAMAS leaders in Gaza said they briefed Ismail Haniyeh, HAMAS' Qatar-based political leader, on the "big project."



New Information on October 7 Attack - Revealed

■ Timing of the attack:

- **HAMAS initially planned to carry out the attack, which it code-named “the big project,” in the fall of 2022.** But the group delayed executing the plan as it tried to persuade Iran and Hezbollah to participate.
- HAMAS leaders debated whether to launch the massacre on September 25, 2023, on Yom Kippur, or on October 7, which coincided with the Jewish holy day of Simchat Torah.
- **HAMAS leadership council said they wanted to carry out the attack by the end of 2023 because Israel had announced it was developing a new kind of laser** that could destroy HAMAS rockets more efficiently than the Iron Dome.
- **HAMAS deliberately avoided major confrontations with Israel for two years from 2021**, in order to maximize the surprise of the October 7 massacre. As the leaders saw it, they “must keep the enemy convinced that Hamas in Gaza wants calm.”

The decision to attack was also influenced by HAMAS’ desire to disrupt efforts to normalize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia.



Netzarim Corridor Further Fortified

- Since early September, IDF has constructed an additional 12 forward operating bases in the Netzarim corridor, bringing the total to at least 19 large bases.



Humanitarian Aid to Gaza Delayed By HAMAS, UNRWA

- December 1 2024: **UNRWA announced the pause of the delivery of aid inside Gaza due to constant theft by “armed gangs.”**
- December 1 2024: The Israeli military said **aid convoys are “attacked by HAMAS terrorists and known crime families.”** They also confirmed that only “7% of the aid that came into the Gaza Strip in November was coordinated by UNRWA,” downplaying their involvement.

Kerem Shalom is the only crossing between Israel and Gaza that is designed for cargo shipments and therefore accounted for nearly two-thirds of all aid entering Gaza in November 2024. **Journalist visiting the Gazan side of Kerem Shalom crossing witnessed truckloads of aid that, according to the Israeli military, often wait there “for months” to be distributed.**



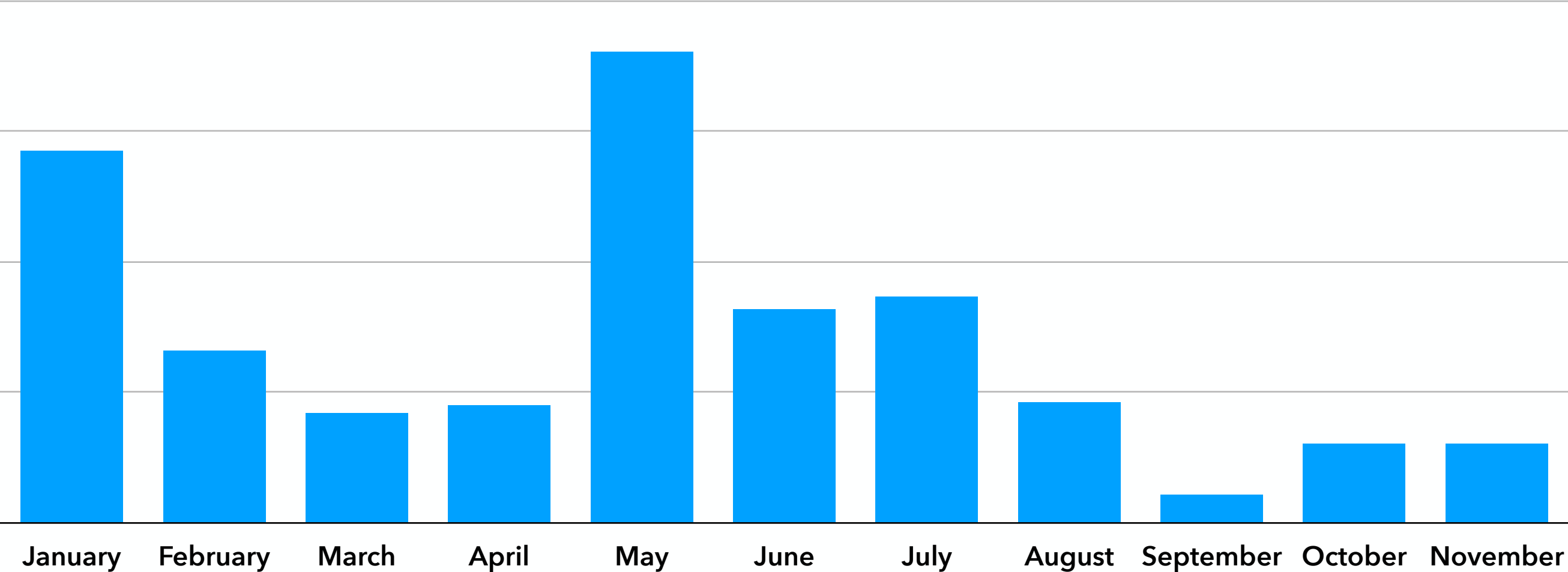
Picture taken during a tour of the Gazan side of Kerem Shalom on November 28, 2024.

Israel Recovers Hostage Body; Now 100 Remaining Hostages

- Dec. 4 2024: IDF and Israel's General Security Agency (Shin Bet) recovered the body of German-Israeli hostage Itay Svirsky in a classified operation.
- Svirsky had been declared murdered by his captors while in captivity in February of 2024. He had been taken hostage alive on October 7, 2023 while visiting his parents in Kibbutz Be'eri.



Rocket Launches from Gaza into Israel 2024

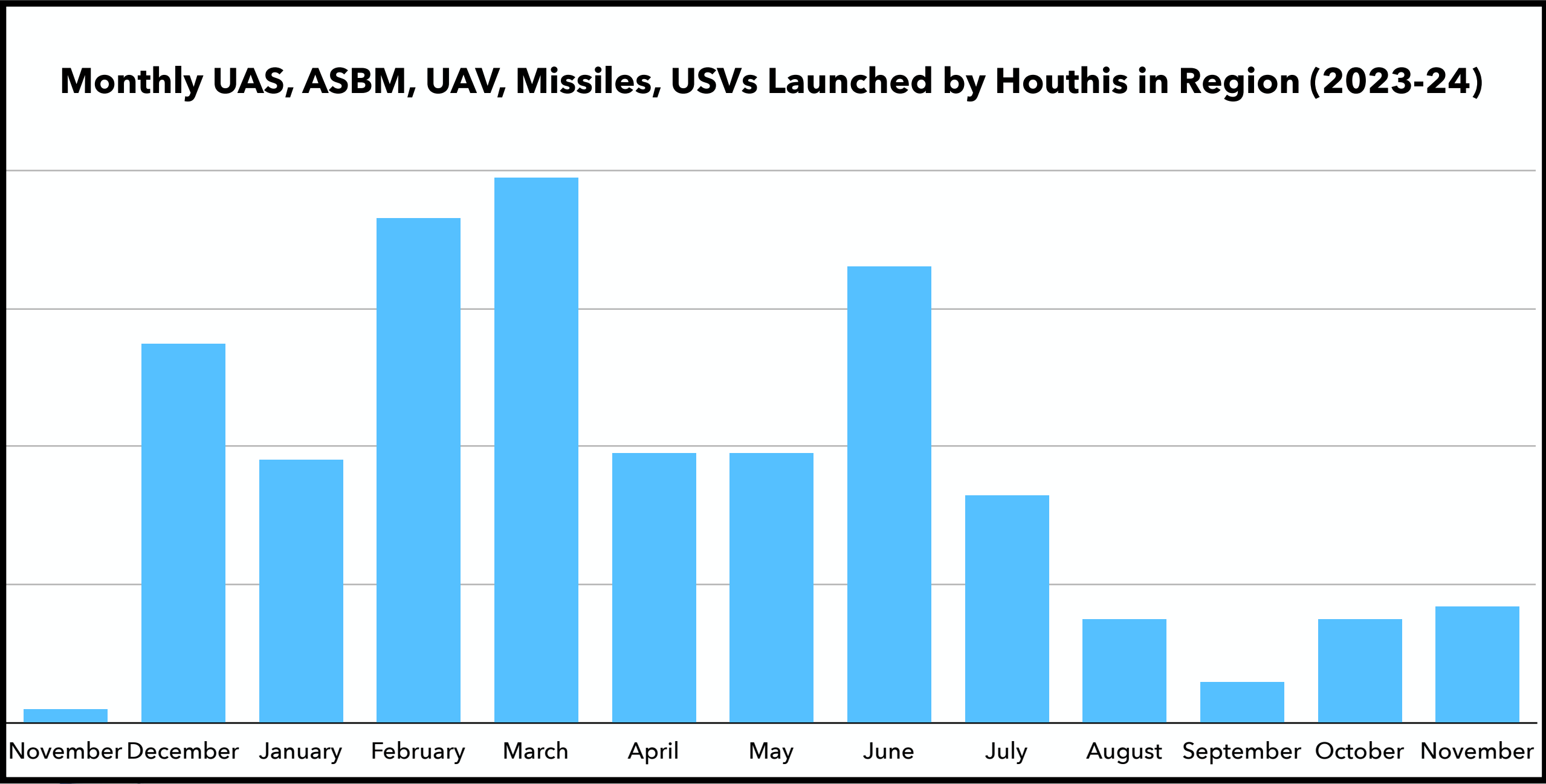


Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Sept. 20: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi UAVs over the Red Sea.**
- Sept. 24: US Forces destroyed **1 Houthi UAVs over the Red Sea.**
- Sept. 30: US Forces destroyed **6 UAVs in a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen.**
- Oct. 16: US Forces conducted widespread attacks on Houthi weapons storage facilities in Yemen that contained advanced conventional weapons. **B-2 long-range stealth bombers were used in the operation to demonstrate US global strike capabilities.**
- **US CENTCOM announces a change to regular reporting on Red Sea activity
- Oct. 24: US forces destroyed **15 Houthi one-way attack unscrewed aerial systems, land attack cruise missiles, and surface-to-air missiles .**
- Nov. 9: US forces struck multiple Houthi weapons storage facilities in Houthi-controlled territories in Yemen. In addition, **US forces engaged and destroyed 8 one-way attack uncrewed aerial systems (OWA UAS), 5 anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBM), and 4 anti-ship cruise missiles launched by the Houthis into the Bab al-Mandeb Strait.**
- Dec. 1: While escorting 3 US owned merchant vessels, US forces intercepted and **destroyed 3 ASBMs, 3 OWA UAS, and 1 anti-ship cruise missile.**



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region



Israel Retaliates Houthis Again in Yemen

- Sept. 15: Houthis fired a ballistic missile at central Israel which was intercepted.
- Sept. 27 - 28: Houthis fired missiles towards central Israel but both were intercepted.
- Sept. 29: Dozens of Israeli Air Force planes attacked Houthi targets in Hodeidah, Yemen. These included 2 oil storage units at a power station and a seaport, only the second time that Israel had attacked targets in Yemen.



Iran Directly Attacks Israel for the Second Time

- October 1: **Iran fired more than 180 ballistic missiles at Israel.** Iran claimed that it was in retaliation for the assassinations of Hassan Nasrallah and Ismail Haniyeh.
- Most missiles were intercepted by Israel's aerial defense systems and some damage was caused to 2 Israeli Air Force bases. **The only person to be killed in the Iranian attack was Palestinian Sameh al-Asali** a Gazan who was sheltering in the West Bank when a fragment of an Iranian missile fell on him.
- The **USS Bulkeley and USS Cole based in the eastern Mediterranean both launched a dozen interceptors against Iranian missiles** that helped to shoot down some of the missiles.
- Two British Royal Air Force jets and an air-to-air refueling tanker were deployed to help deter an escalation but did not engage any targets. The UK has several bases in Cyprus and two warship deployed in the eastern Mediterranean. France has military bases in Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq and the UAE and said it had mobilized military resources to help Israel counter Iran's attack.

Footage over Jordan shows Iranian missiles fired at Israel.



Israel Weighs Its Potential Responses

- Israeli leaders and the IDF have said that **Israel will respond to Iran's attack.**
- Israel has Jericho 2 ballistic missiles that can travel 2,000 miles and Jericho 3 ballistic missiles that can travel 4,000 miles.



Possible Targets: Iranian Energy Infrastructure

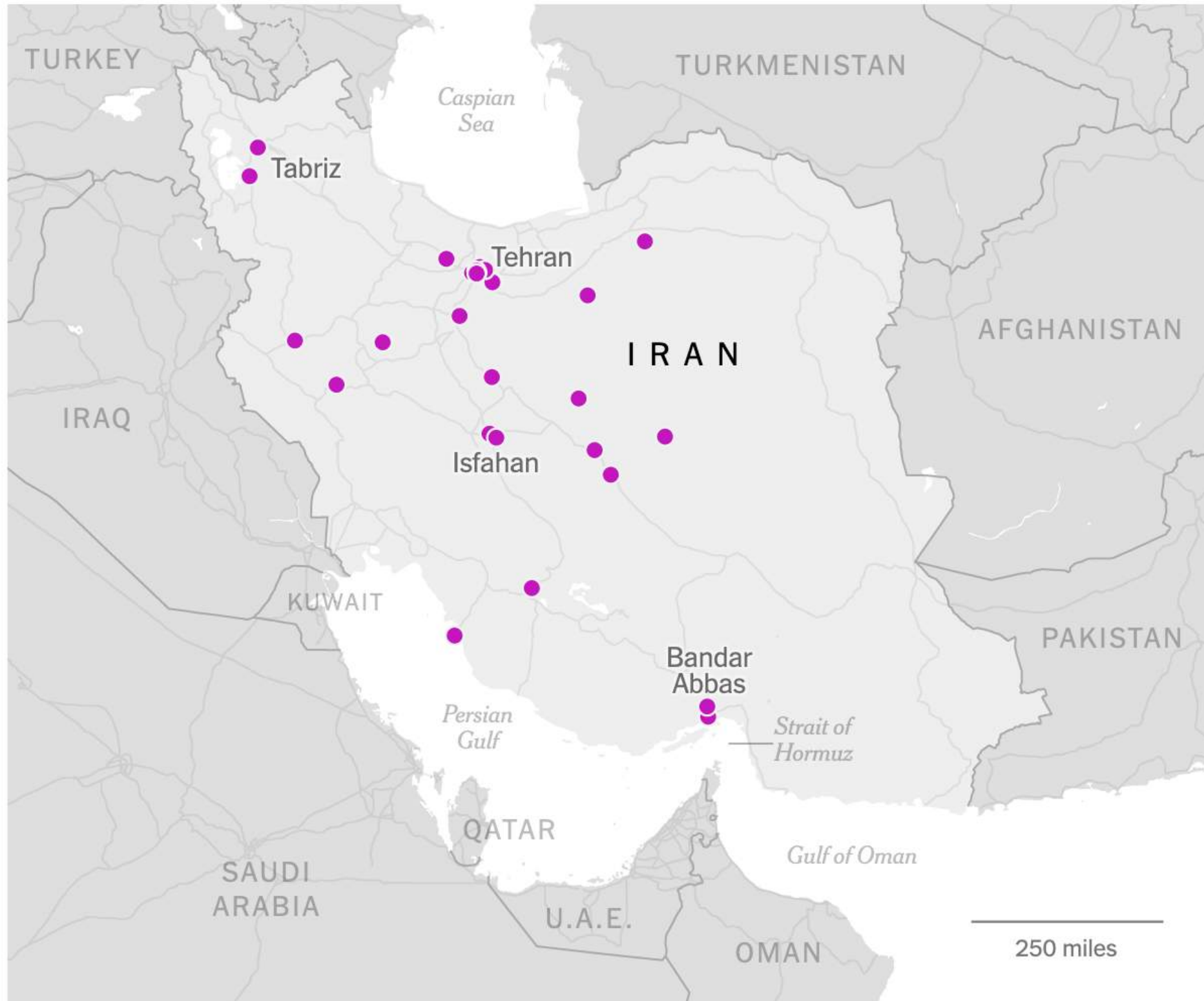
Oil and gas facilities in Iran

- Refineries, ports, processing plants, storage
- Pipelines



Possible Targets: Iranian Nuclear Facilities

Nuclear facilities in Iran



October: Israel's Allies Affect Israel's Response with Incentives

- October 11: US Dept. of Treasury expanded **sanctions on 10 entities and 17 vessels involved in Iran's oil exports**, including Iran's 'Ghost Fleet' used to carry illicit oil to buyers around the world.
- October 13: President Biden orders **Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery and associated military crew to Israel**. THAAD is a mobile surface-to-air ballistic missile interceptor that can strike incoming missiles above Earth's atmosphere and within it. THAAD was operational by October 21.
- October 14: The Council of the European Union sanctioned 7 individuals and 7 elites in response to Iran's missile transfer to Russia, **including 3 Iranian airlines** (Saha Airlines, Mahan Air, and Iran Air)
- October 16: **US B-2 stealth bombers struck 5 underground weapons storage facilities used by the Houthis**. US Secretary of Defense Austin said that the strike demonstrated the US military's ability to strike hard-to-reach locations, "no matter how deeply buried underground, hardened, or fortified."
- October 22: **US Secretary of State Blinken arrives to Israel** for meetings with Israeli leaders.



October 25: Israel Responds

- Shortly after US Secretary of State Blinken landed back in Washington following a trip to the Middle East, **Israeli fighter jets flew through Syrian and Iraqi airspace from which they fired into Iran, marking the first acknowledged Israeli military operation inside Iran.**
- Using air-launched ballistic missiles, **Israel targeted 20 military sites** over three waves of attack in three hours, including:
 - **Air defense systems** that protect Tehran, including Iran's leadership and several critical oil refineries
 - **Missile and drone production facilities**
 - Approximately **a dozen fuel mixers** that make propellant for Iran's missile fleet
- **4 Iranian soldiers** and 1 Iranian civilian and were killed in the strike.
- PM Netanyahu said on Nov. 18 that **Israel had "harmed" a "certain component" of the Iranian nuclear program**

Satellite imagery shows damage following an **Israeli strike to a Revolutionary Guard base in Semnan Province that manufactured ballistic missiles.**



October 25: Israel Responds

- It was later revealed that **Israel targeted and completely destroyed the Taleghan 2 facility inside the Parchin military complex**, an active top-secret nuclear weapons research facility in Parchin 20 miles southeast of Tehran
- Taleghan 2 facility was part of the **Iranian Amad nuclear weapons program** and used to test explosives needed to set off a nuclear device
- Israel destroyed **sophisticated equipment used to design the plastic explosives that surround uranium in a nuclear device** and are needed to detonate it.
- Because the **Taleghan 2 facility was not part of Iran's declared nuclear program, the Iranians are not able to acknowledge the significance of this** attack without admitting they violated nuclear non-proliferation treaty



October 25: Israel Responds

Dec. 4, Adm. Tony Radakin, the UK's Chief of Defense Staff, said: "Israel used more than 100 aircraft, carrying fewer than 100 munitions, and with no aircraft getting within 100 miles of the target in the first wave, and that it took down nearly the entirety of Iran's air-defense system. It has destroyed Iran's ability to produce ballistic missiles for a year and left Tehran with a strategic dilemma in how it responds. That is the power of fifth-generation aircraft [Lockheed Martin's F-35], combined with exquisite targeting and extraordinary intelligence. And that was all delivered from a single sortie."

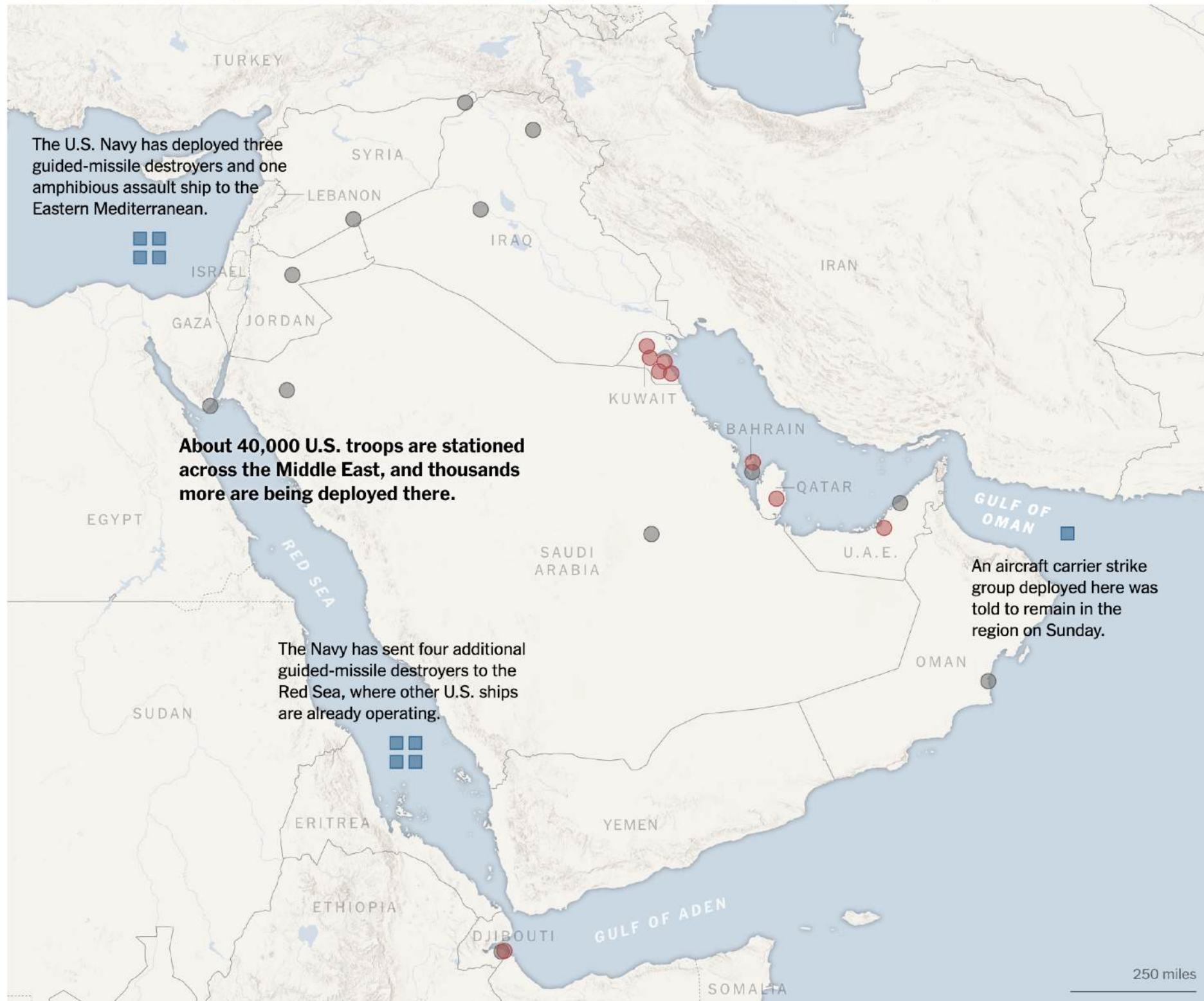


IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi and the Chief of the Defense Staff UK Adm. Tony Radakin

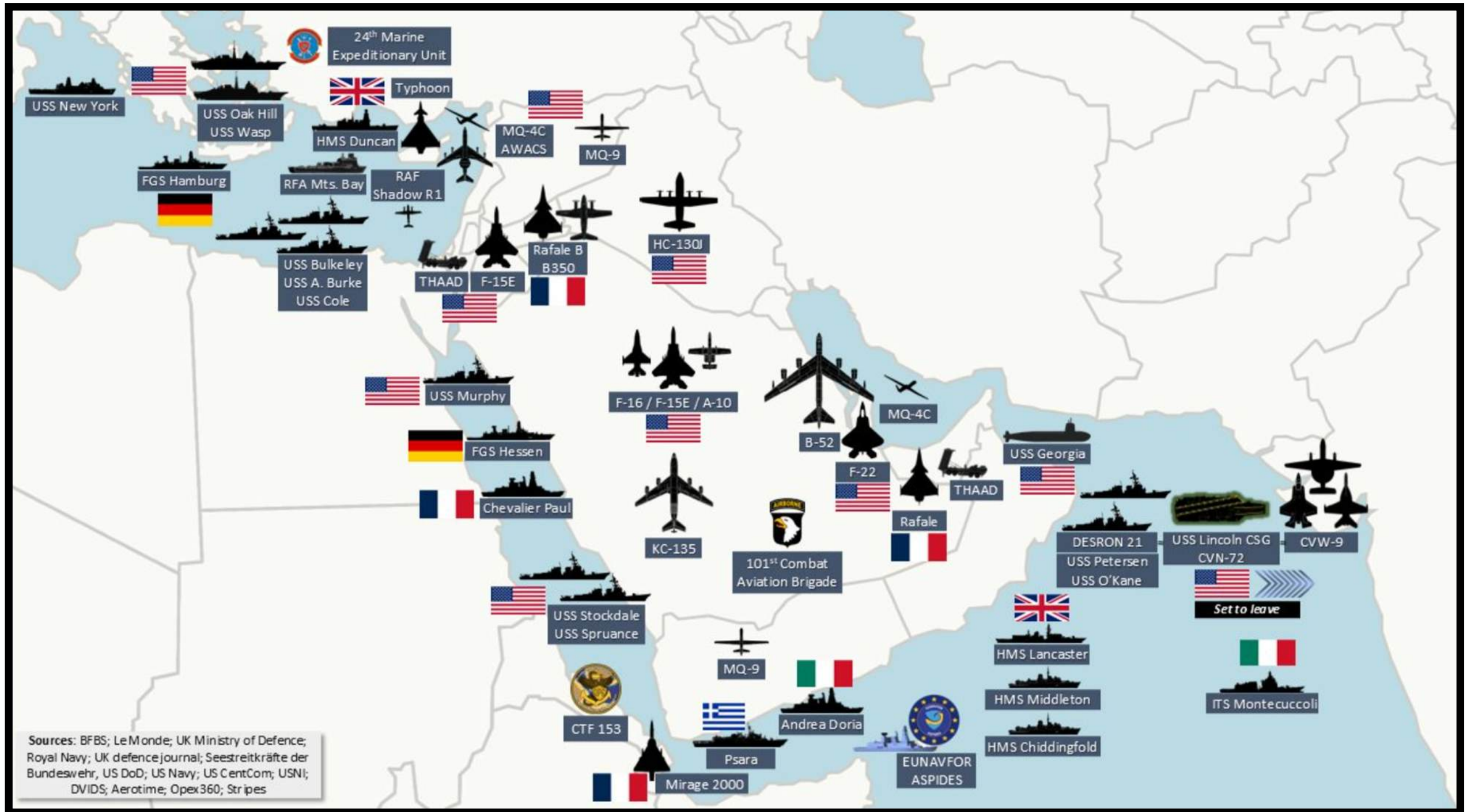
October 2024 US Force Deployment in the Middle East

Where U.S. Forces Are Deployed in the Middle East

■ U.S. Naval deployments this week ● Long-term U.S. military bases ● Other U.S. military sites



Deployment of US and Coalition Forces - October 2024



Phase 8: Dominoes Fall
After Hezbollah Is Weakened

Dec. 5 2024 - Jan. 18 2024

*New Focus on Syria, Yemen,
and a new Gazan Corridor*

Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria

- Protests that started as part of the Arab Spring in 2010 lead to a civil war for over a decade in Syria.
- **President Assad kept rebel forces at bay with military support from Iran, Hezbollah, and Russia**, which at its height included approximately 6,000 Russian military personnel.
- After the beginning of the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire, the Syrian rebels broke their ceasefire agreement with the Assad regime (in place since 3/20) and began their offensive. In just two weeks, Syrian rebel forces swept from the northwest and took control of Syria's major cities in quick succession, forcing the fall of President Bashar al-Assad.
- The rebels, armed with drones, moved along a north-south corridor that forms the country's main spine to take Damascus, the capital, without a fight.



Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: What is HTS?

- **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) is a Sunni Islamist rebel group once linked to Al Qaeda** which recently joined a coalition with more moderate rebel groups. **HTS is backed by Turkey while the Kurdish-led secular alliance in the Northeast are backed by the United States** and have played an important role in the defeat of jihadist groups in Syria over the past decade.
- HTS ruled Idlib Province in Northwest Syria for 5 years (managing municipal operations, collecting taxes and even respecting minority groups) and for years fought Hezbollah and Iran inside Syria.
- After the Hamas massacre on October 7 2023 and ensuing regional war, **HTS began preparing for its offensive to enlarge its control South towards Damascus. This included Turkish support**.
- The offensive, launched on November 27, worked. The rebels took control of Aleppo (Syria's largest city), then continued South to seize the city of Hama which had never fallen to rebels during the civil war. Finally, the rebels took control of Homs, 100 miles North of Damascus.
- Rebels from South of Damascus led the charge into the capital city, which fell by December 8.
- **Without soldiers from Iran or Hezbollah and with little support from Russian airstrikes, the Syrian government forces disintegrated** and President Assad fled to Moscow.



Syria's New Leader

- **Abu Mohammad al-Jolani is a hard line Syrian Islamist. He fought with Al Qaeda of Iraq, and in 2005 he was detained by U.S. forces at Camp Bucca, where he met Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the founder of ISIS. He called Assad's fall "a victory for the Islamic nation."**
- Baghdadadi later dispatched al-Jolani to establish a Syrian branch of ISIS - which became the Nusra Front.
- **The name Abu Mohammad al-Jolani itself is an assumed military nickname derived from the Arabic word for the Golan Heights.**
- In a symbolic gesture, he has returned to his given name, Ahmed al-Sharaa and has since distanced HTS from Al-Qaeda and ISIS.



Abu Mohamed al-Jolani, head of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)

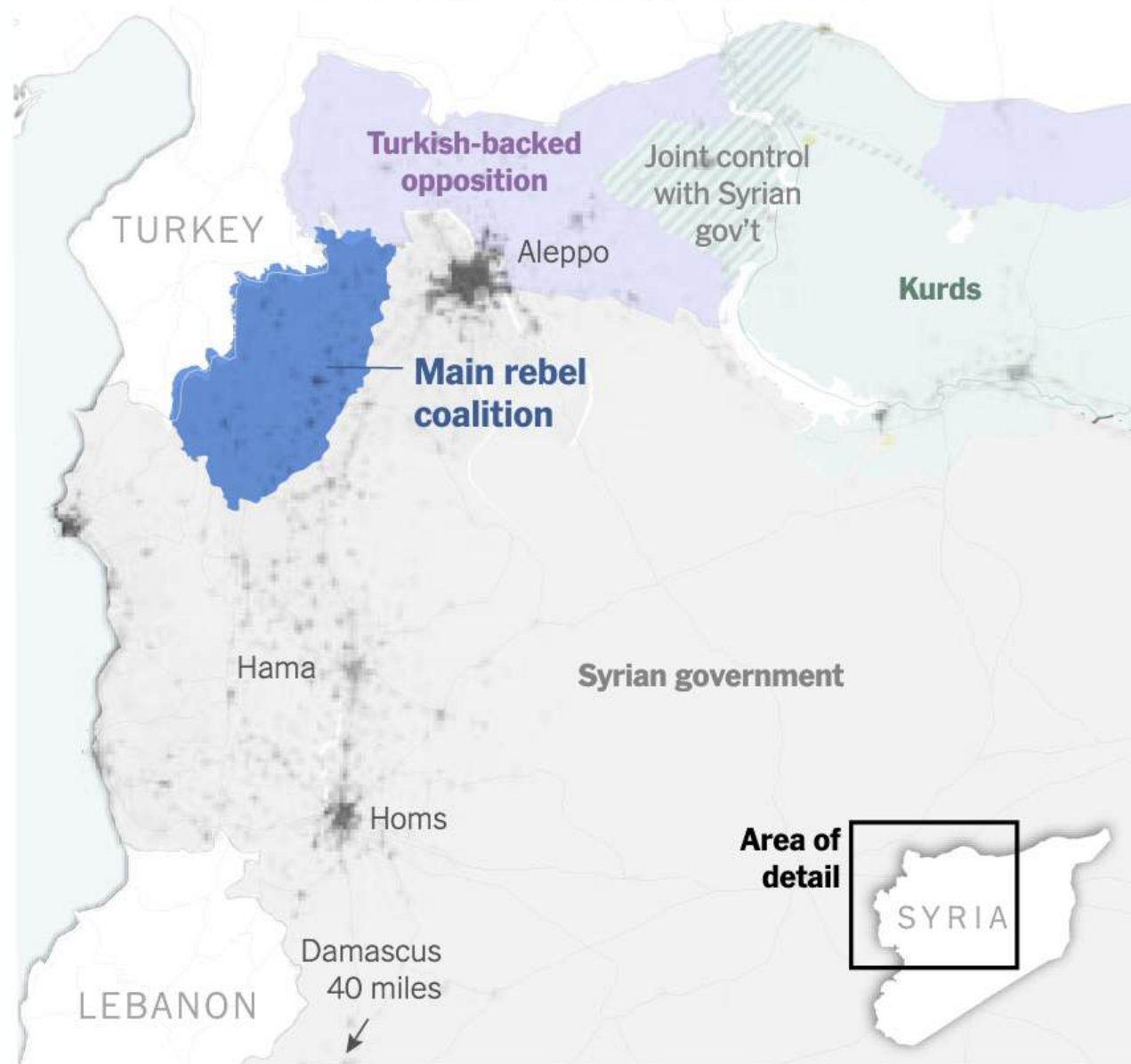
Iran Departs Syria

- **For years, Iran sent military advisors to support the Assad regime as well as two brigades under the command of the IRGC Quds Force made up of refugees from Pakistan and Afghanistan who had fled to Iran.**
- As the rebels advanced on Damascus, Tehran quickly evacuated its Revolutionary Guards and Basij paramilitary forces, which had propped up Assad.
- The Commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps told Iranian media: "Some expect us to fight in place of the Syrian Army. Is it logical for the I.R.G.C. and Basij forces to take on full responsibility while Syria's Army merely observes?"
- Iran closed its Embassy in Syria and evacuated four thousand citizens on emergency flights.
- **Dec. 9: al-Jolani said in a speech in Damascus that the Assad regime had brought many ills upon Syria and had allowed the country to become "a farm for Iranian greed."**

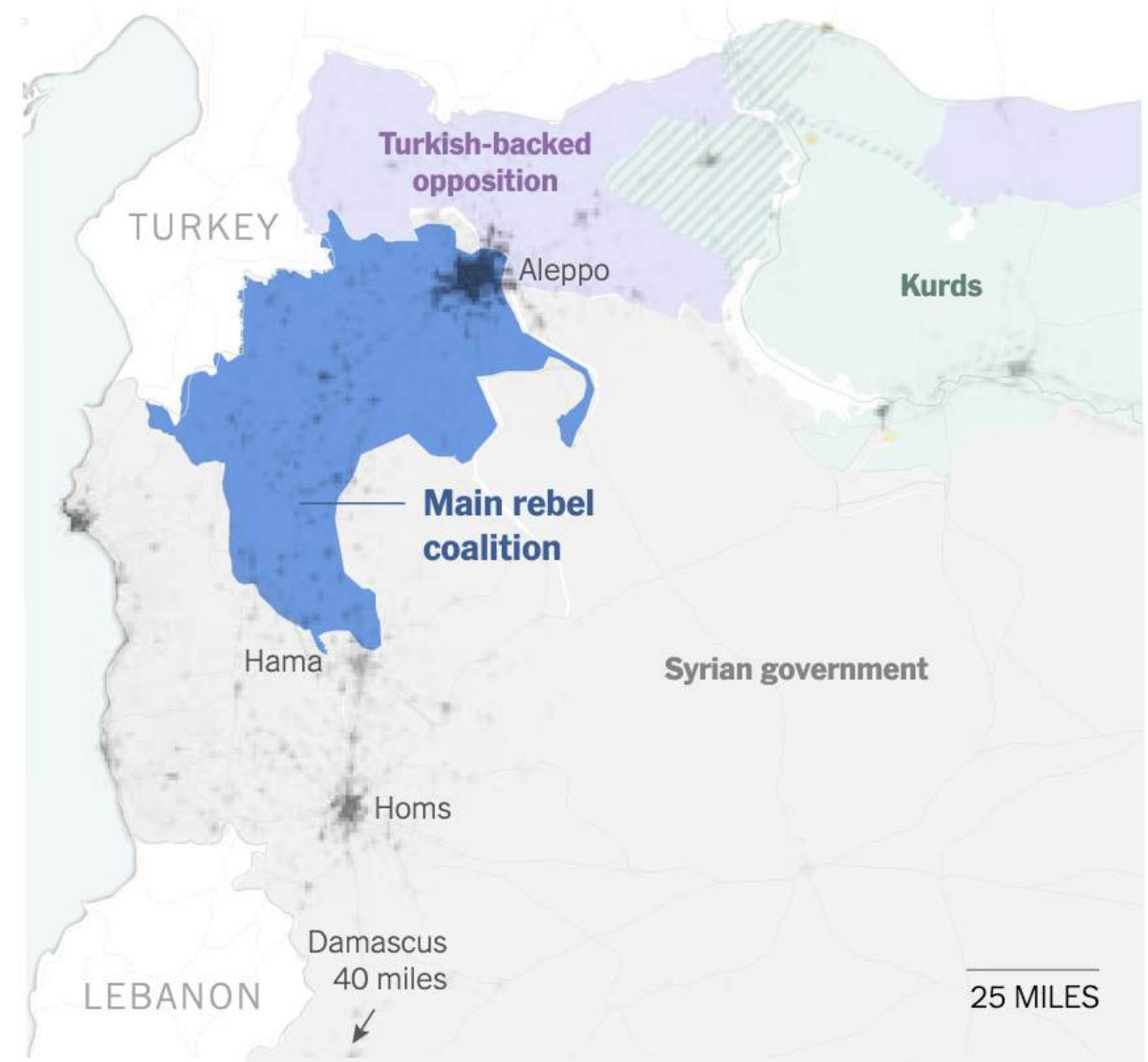


Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: The Rebel Offensive

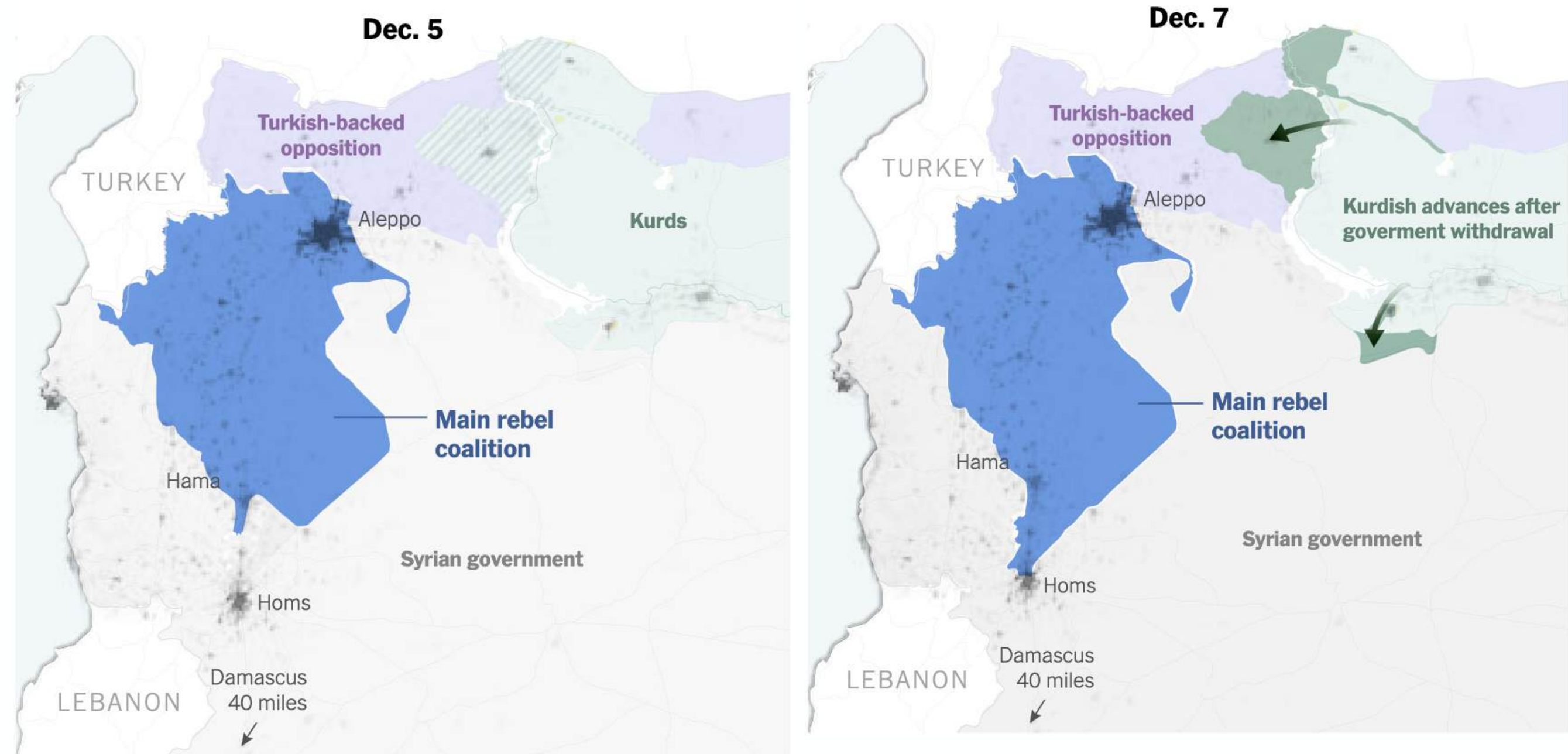
As of Nov. 26 (before offensive)



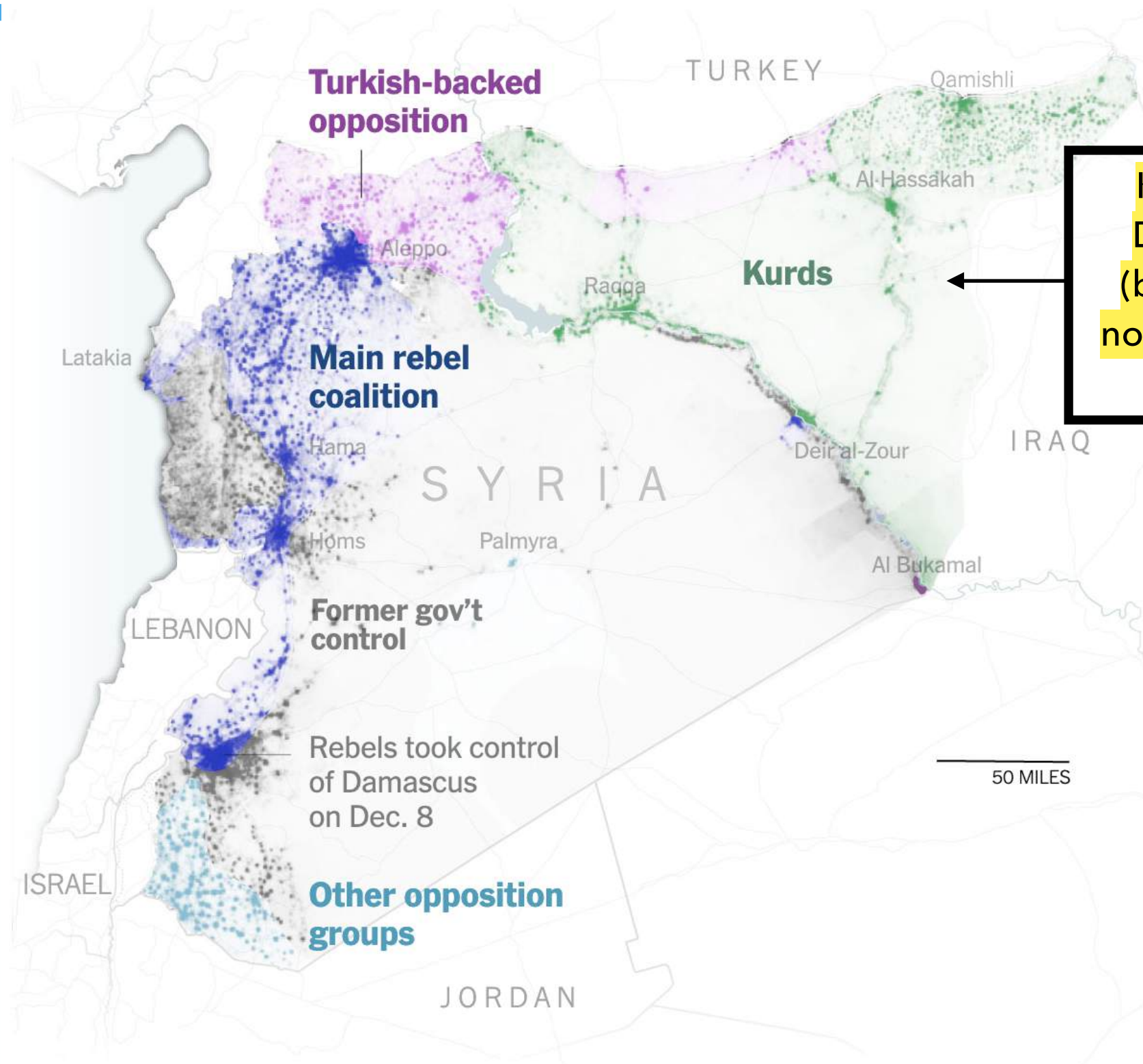
Dec. 3



Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: The Rebel Offensive



Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: The Rebel Offensive Today



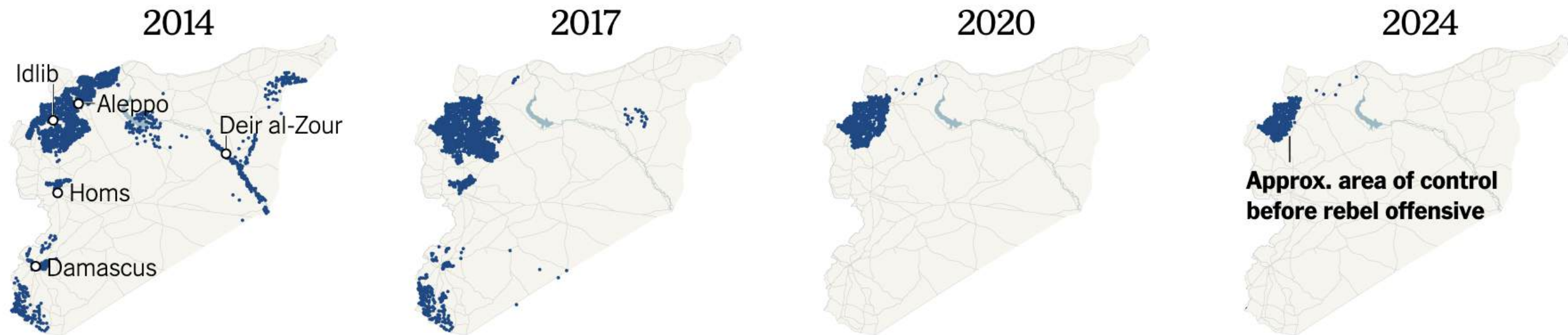
Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (backed by the U.S.) now controls a third of Syria.

Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: Movement of Forces Inside Syria

Opposition forces

Their territory had shrunk until late November.
Now, they control the capital.

■ Locations controlled by opposition forces



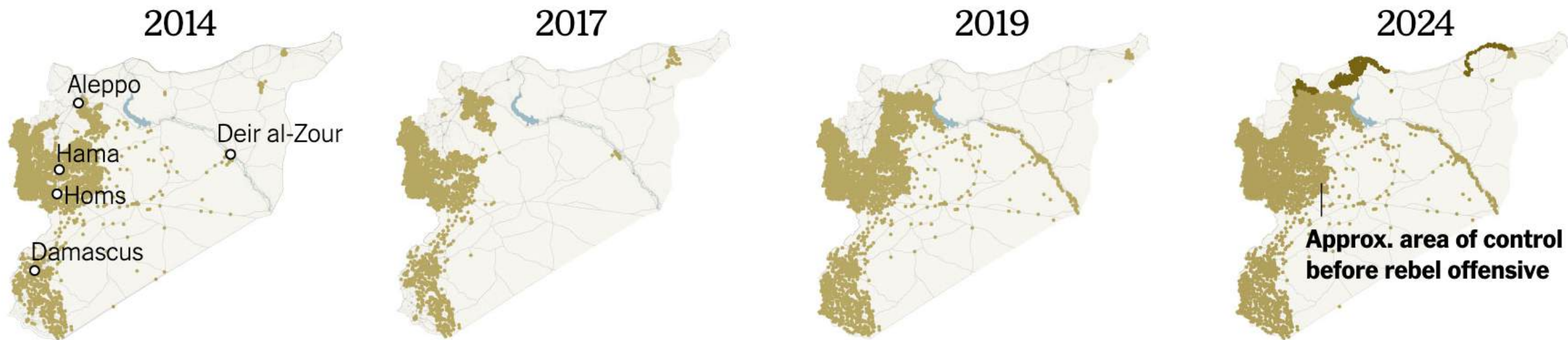
Source: The Carter Center. Note: Opposition forces include both extremist Islamic and moderate factions.

Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: Movement of Forces Inside Syria

Government forces and allies

The conflict shifted in their favor years ago — then they lost Syria's major cities in just two weeks.

■ Locations controlled by Syrian gov't and allies ■ Joint control with Kurds



Source: The Carter Center

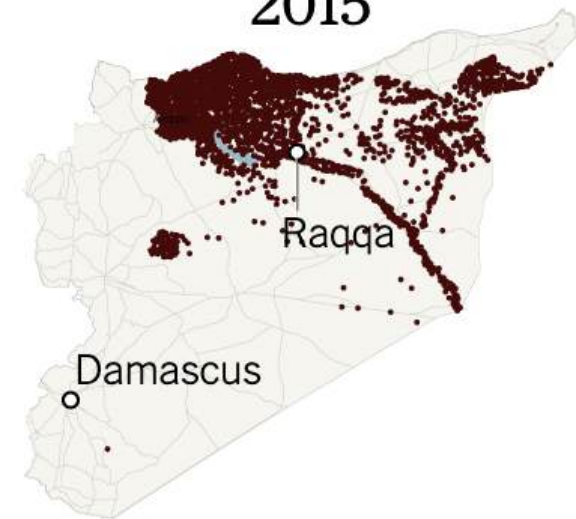
Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: Movement of Forces Inside Syria

Islamic State

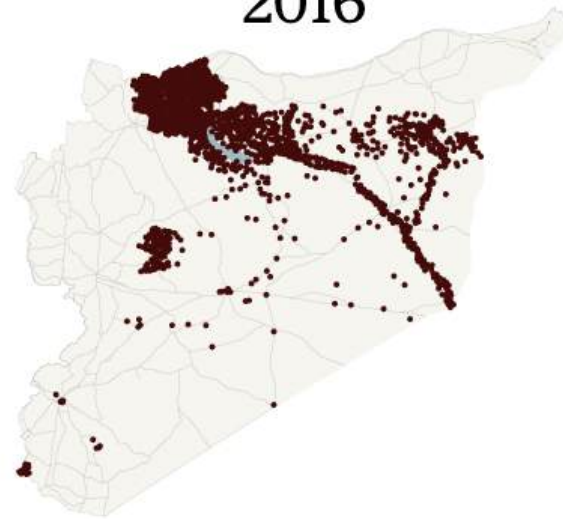
It once held a third of Syria.

■ Locations controlled by Islamic State

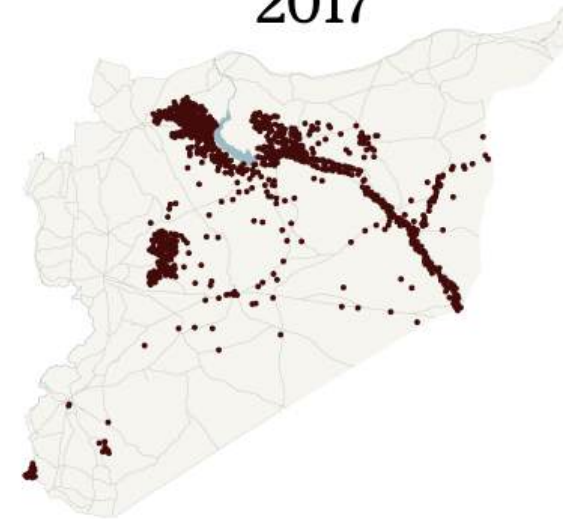
2015



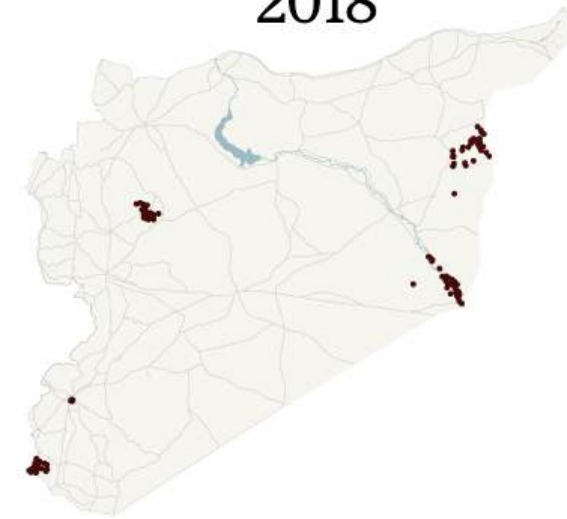
2016



2017



2018



Source: The Carter Center

Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: Movement of Forces Inside Syria

Kurdish-led forces

They took territory from the Islamic State, but lost other ground to Turkish-backed forces.

■ Locations controlled by Kurds ■ Joint control with Syrian gov't

2014

2017

2019

2024

Damascus

Approx. area of control
before rebel offensive

Source: The Carter Center



Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: Movement of Forces Inside Syria

Turkish military operations

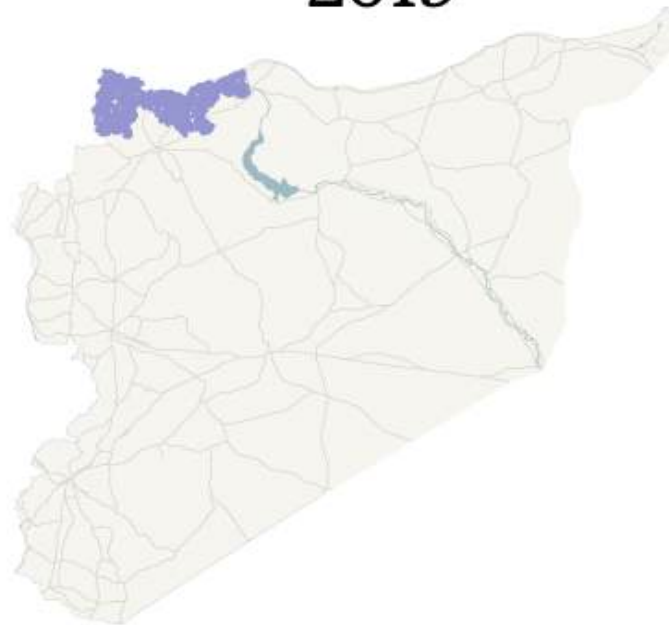
Captured parts of the northern border area from Kurdish-led forces.

■ Locations controlled by Turkish military operations

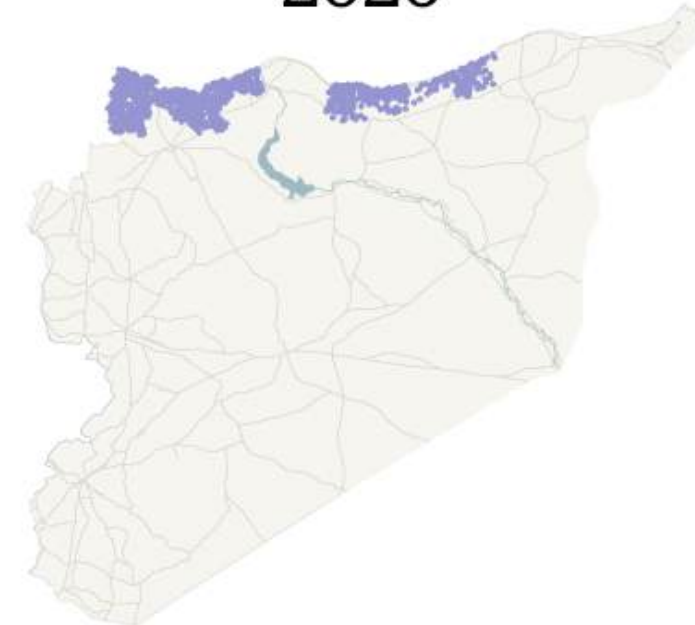
2017



2019



2020



Source: The Carter Center

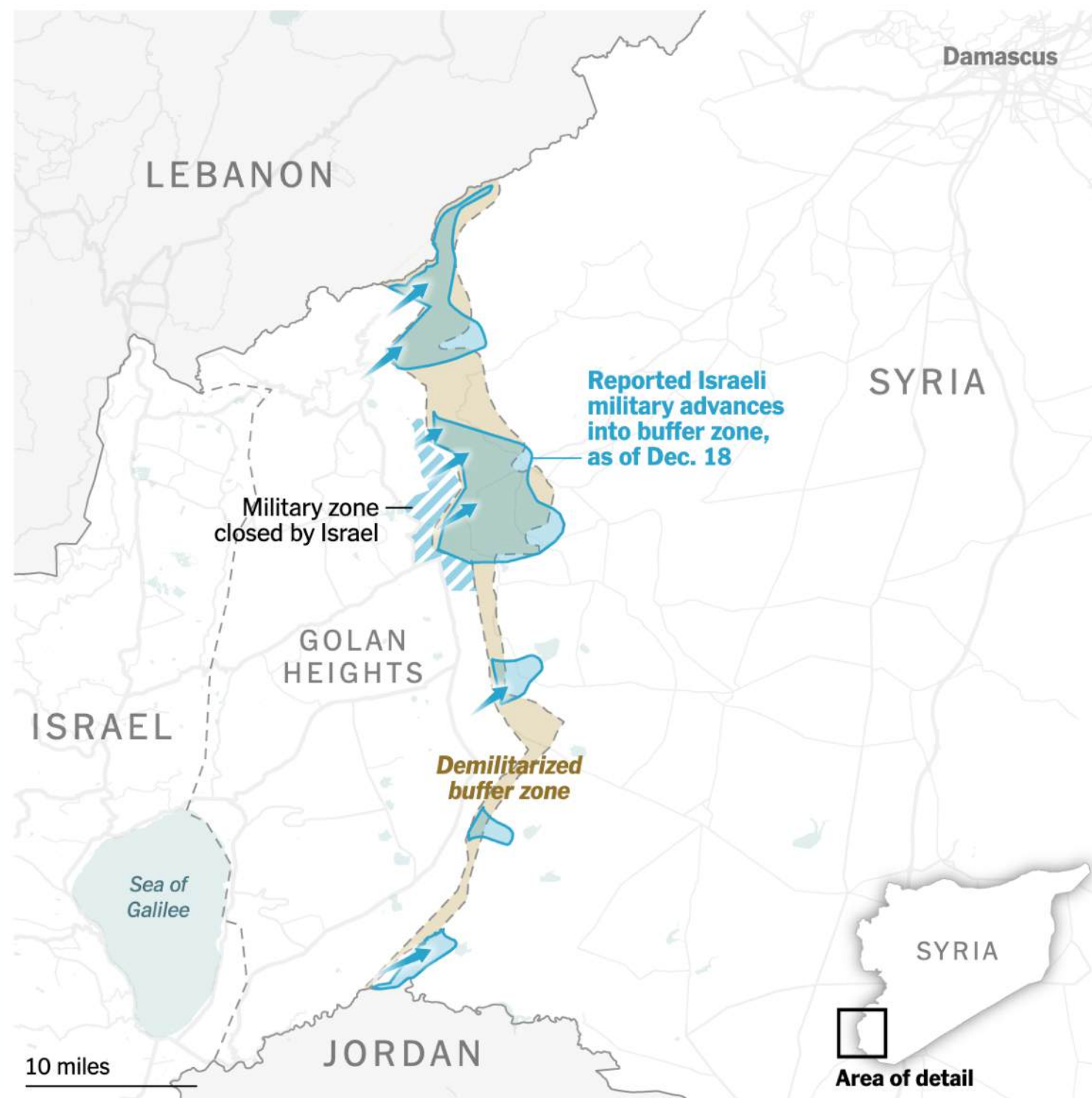
Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: Israel Responds

- Dec. 7: Before the complete fall of the Assad regime, **IDF ground forces entered Syrian territory for the first time overtly since 1973**, taking control of the Mt. Hermon summit on the Syrian side - the peak of Mt. Hermon and the highest point in Syrian territory - and other locations across the Israeli-Syrian border.

Approximate advance of the IDF into the buffer zone between Syria & Israel



Approximate advance of the Israeli military into Syria



Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: Israel Responds

- Assad had deployed the regime's anti-aircraft array around the capital city of Damascus, in the coastal region where the Alawite community is concentrated, and in the port cities of Latakia and Tartus, with radars across the entire country.
- Dec. 7-10: Israel's Air Force destroyed Syrian government's military assets including stockpiles of chemical weapons, Scud missiles, fighter jets, 15 navy vessels, drones, tanks, weapons factories, and radar equipped batteries and vehicles of Russian air defense missiles in over 350 airstrikes inside Syria.



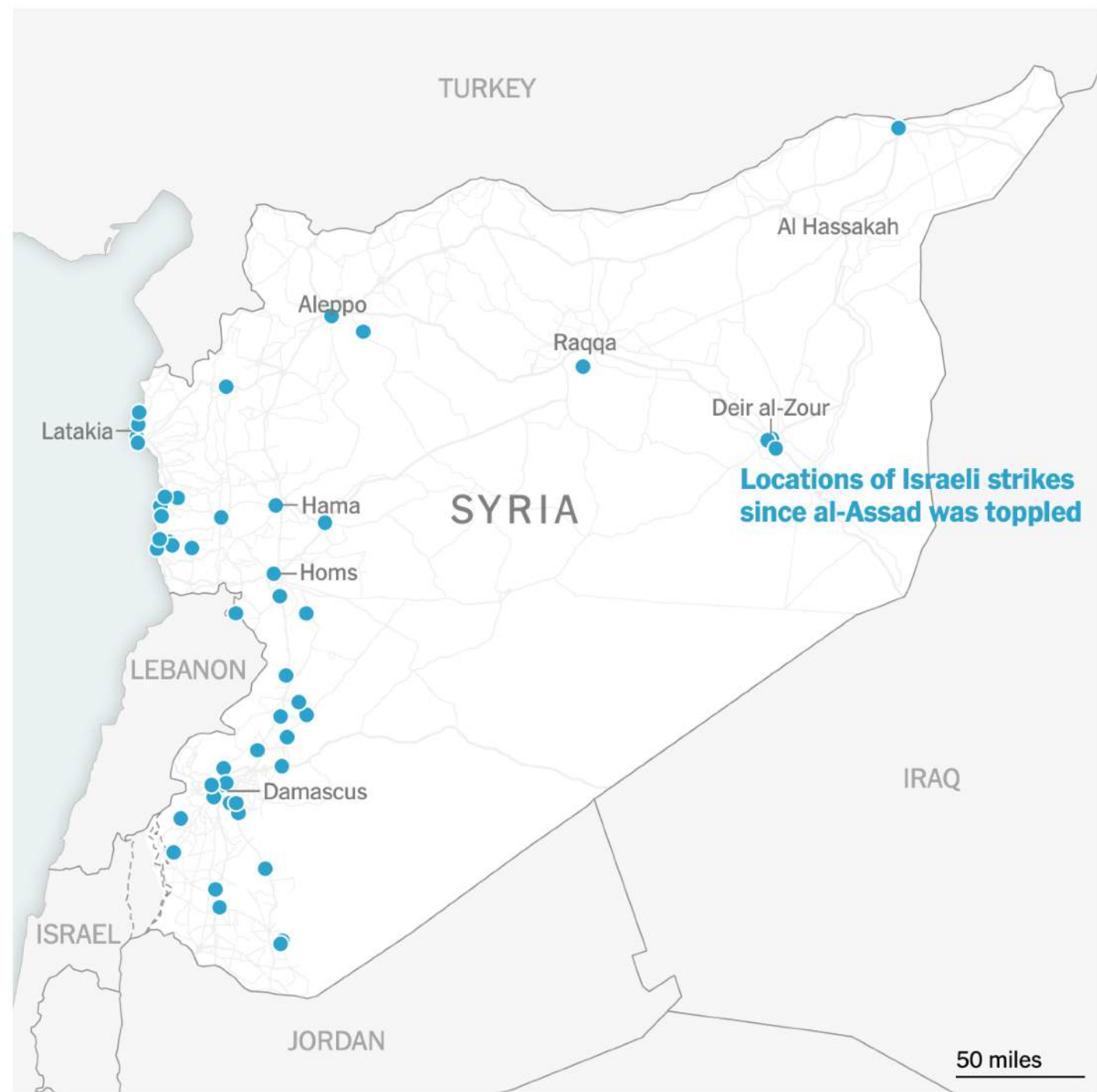
The aftermath of an IDF strike on the Barzah scientific research center, which had been linked to the Syrian government's chemical weapons program.



Russian-made surface-to-air defense missile system (SA-17) destroyed by the IDF in Damascus.

Fall of the Assad Regime in Syria: Israel Responds

- **Within the first 25 hours, the Israeli Air Force destroyed over 100 surface-to-air missile batteries of the densest anti-aircraft system on Earth, which was the largest threat to the Israeli Air Force for the past 50 years.**
- By the end of December, IDF had attacked over 450 targets in Syria.



Note: As of Dec. 18. Locations are approximate based on daily reports. Some locations have been struck multiple times. • Source: Syrian Observatory for Human Rights • By Josh Holder

Lebanon: Understanding Aerial Superiority

- The IAF in recent years rarely flew over Lebanon for fear of manned aircraft being shot down by Hezbollah's arsenal of Russian- and Iranian-made anti-aircraft systems manned by 3,000 Hezbollah operatives.
- In 2020, a Hezbollah SA-8 missile struck and downed an Israeli UAV conducting a reconnaissance mission in Northern Israeli airspace. Hezbollah's cover stretched towards the Sea of Galilee, the northern third of Israeli airspace.
- This situation was so bad that **from 2021-2023, the IAF kept simple surveillance flights to a bare minimum,** forcing Israel to rely more on satellites to follow Hezbollah personnel and infrastructure.
- By October 7 2023, Hezbollah became the first terrorist organization to set up an array of 100 large surface-to-air (anti-aircraft) missiles, including advanced Syrian radars and Iranian and Russian systems.
- **By the time of the signing of the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire agreement on November 27, 2024, the IAF had destroyed Hezbollah's anti-aircraft system.**

For the first time ever, Israel has aerial superiority over Lebanon, Syria, and Iran.



Lebanon: 60-Day Ceasefire Deadline Looms

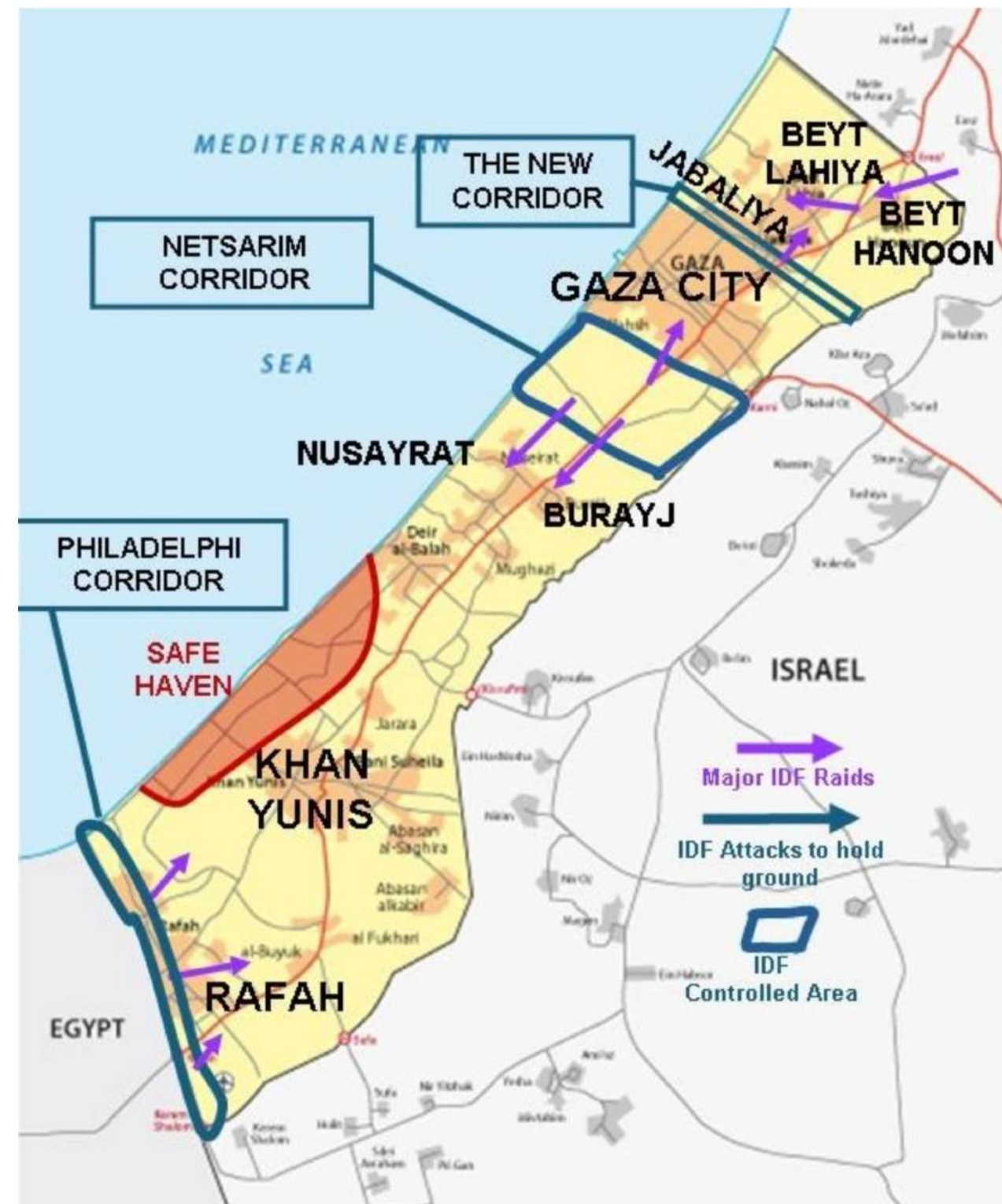
- The November 27th ceasefire stipulated a 60-day deadline for withdrawal of IDF soldiers from Lebanon as Lebanese Army forces deployed across the Israel-Lebanon border ending on January 25, 2025.
- Israel continues to identify and destroy Hezbollah infrastructure in southern Lebanon including terrorist tunnels and various weaponry.
- The Lebanese Army has been slow to deploy in southern Lebanon and Hezbollah weaponry and infrastructure continues to be discovered.
- **Israel has warned that if Lebanon does not fulfill its obligations under the ceasefire, Israel may need to stay in southern Lebanon longer to protect the residents of Northern Israel.**
- Should Israel not withdraw troops, Hezbollah could use this as an excuse to ignite conflict.
- **With the fall of Assad, Hezbollah lost a significant weapons supply network from Iran via Syria.**



Gaza: Operations Continue Where HAMAS Returns

- As thousands of HAMAS terrorists rearmed and regrouped in Northern Gaza caused a return of IDF ground operations in the area.
- Intensive fighting in Northern Gaza left 34 IDF soldiers (including the commander of an armored brigade) killed. The IDF has not provided details, but extrapolating from partial information, several hundred Hamas terrorists were killed in this fighting (perhaps as many as 500). Many hundreds of Hamas terrorists have surrendered (perhaps almost 1,000).
- **Dec. 27-29: Terrorists rearmed inside a hospital in Beyt Lahiya, which led to an IDF operation to arrest 240 HAMAS and PIJ terrorists inside the hospital including 15 terrorists who participated in October 7 massacre. Grenades and guns were discovered and removed.**

December 2024



Gaza: Operations Continue Where HAMAS Returns

- Dec. 28: Two long-range HAMAS rockets were fired towards Jerusalem from Beyt Hanoon and intercepted by the IDF. They were the first attack of long-range rockets from Gaza since August 2024.
- Jan. 8: IDF soldiers in Rafah in Southern Gaza discover the body of Arab Bedouin hostage Youssef Ziyadne and the remains of his son Hamza Ziyadne who was taken hostage with him

A recent study of the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza found that from December 2023 to July 2024, **HAMAS earned approximately \$700 million from selling humanitarian aid that was being sent in** – products that were meant to be freely distributed to the civilian population.

Gaza: A New IDF Corridor?

- Israel is building new roads and erecting military fortifications in Northern Gaza, possibly creating a new corridor.
- This new corridor resembles the Netzarim Corridor and could be used to create a buffer zone to insulate Israeli communities that were attacked on October 7, 2023.



Image of the Netzarim Corridor 12/26/24



More American Sanctions and Support to the Region



US Visits to Israel

- **Dec. 11-13:** General Kurilla (pictured right)
- **Dec. 12:** NSA Sullivan
- **Jan. 13-15:** General Kurilla

Dec. 27: American THAAD missile defense system participated in the interception of a Houthi ballistic missile launched at Israel, the first time the system was used since its deployment in October 2024.



US Announcements

- Dec. 19: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned a dozen people and entities involved in trafficking arms, laundering money, and shipping illicit Iranian petroleum all for the benefit of the Houthis, including the head of the Central Bank of Yemen branch in Sanaa. The crypto wallets of an IRGC-backed Houthi official were also identified.



More American Sanctions and Support to the Region



US Announcements

- Dec. 19: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned 4 companies and 3 vessels involved in the trade of Iranian oil and petrochemicals, stating they support "Iran's nuclear program, its development and proliferation of provocative ballistic missiles, and financing of terrorist proxy groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis."
- Jan. 17: US Dept. of Treasury sanctioned the Yemen Kuwait Bank for financial support of the Houthis.
- Jan. 3: US State Department informed Congress that it intends to approve \$8 billion in purchases of US-made arms by Israel



Houthis Continue Their Attacks on Israel, US & Israel Respond

- In recent weeks, Houthi missiles and drones struck Israel nearly every day, slipping through Israel's air defenses and setting off air raid sirens in broad swaths of Israel.
- In response, Israel publicly identified the leaders of the Houthis as targets and the US struck Houthi command centers and weapons caches.
- Dec. 19: Two waves of Israeli airstrikes involving **14 fighter jets first targeted Houthi infrastructure at the ports of Hodeida, Salid, and the Rat Isa oil terminal on the Red Sea. They then struck Houthi energy infrastructure including power plants in Sanaa.**
- Dec. 26: Israeli airstrikes targeted Houthi infrastructure used at the international airport in Sanaa and sea ports in Hodeida, Al-Salif and Ras Qantas, along with power stations.

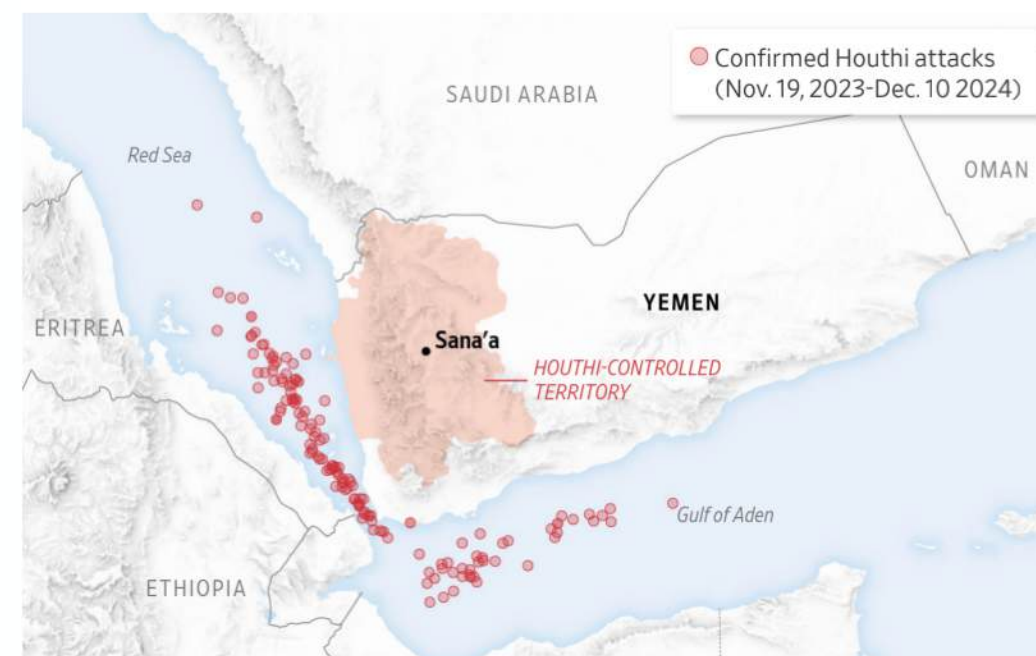


Sites of Israel's strike on Houthi targets on December 26, 2024.

Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- Dec. 10: While escorting 3 US owned merchant vessels, US forces intercepted and **destroyed several Houthi one way attack unscrewed aerial systems (OWA UAS) and 1 anti-ship cruise missile.**
- Dec. 16: US forces **struck a Houthi command and control facility** which was a hub for Houthi operations in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- Dec. 21: US forces **struck a Houthi command and control facility as well as a Houthi missile storage facility.** During the operation, **US forces also shot down multiple Houthi one way attack drones and an anti-ship cruise missile over the Red Sea.**
- Dec. 30 and 31: US forces **struck a Houthi command and control facility and a facility** that produced and stored advanced conventional weapons including missiles and drones. In addition, US forces **destroyed a Houthi coastal radar site, as well as 7 cruise missiles and one-way attack UAVs over the Red Sea.**

Attacks in the Red Sea



Houthi Offenses and Counter Attacks in Red Sea Region

- In 2024, the US reported that **the US-led coalition destroyed about 450 Houthi drones.**
- Jan. 8: US forces **struck 2 underground Houthi weapon storage facilities in Yemen which were used to conduct attacks against US Navy warships and merchant vessels** in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- Jan. 9: IDF intercepted 3 UAVs launched by the Houthis at Israel, with one reaching Israeli territory
- Jan. 10: Israel conducted its 3rd aerial strike on the Houthis. More than 20 Israeli aircraft, with in-flight refueling, struck the Hezyaz power station near Sana (the Houthi-controlled capital) and the Red Sea ports of Hudaydah and Ras Isa (the main oil export terminal), and military bases.
- **command and control facility and a facil**



Negative Global Ramifications of the Houthi Offensive

- **On average, 136 container ships a week traveled around the Cape of Good Hope in 2024, compared to 40 container ships a week before the Houthi attacks started.**
- The cost of shipping a container from China to a West Coast port of the United States is up 217% in 12 months.
- **Houthi attacks have contributed to inflation around the world, and importers fear the higher costs will become permanent.**
- Passage through the Suez Canal has fallen 70%, which has deprived Egypt's government of revenue.
- **The Houthi-created Red Sea crisis has led the global shipping industry to pump out an extra 35.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in the past 12 months, equivalent to the emissions of 7.8 million cars.**



Phase 9: The Second
Ceasefire Begins
Jan. 19 - Feb. 17 2025



Sunday January 19, 2025: 2nd Ceasefire Began on Day 470

- Phase One of the ceasefire agreement is planned to last for 6 weeks (42 days) and includes:
 - **Release of 33 Israeli hostages** (women, children, men over 50 and sick or injured people) and the **release of 1,900 Palestinian prisoners**
 - Entrance of **600 trucks of humanitarian aid into Gaza daily** including 60,000 temporary homes and 200,000 tents
 - **Return of Gazans to their homes in Northern Gaza**
 - **Removal of IDF positions throughout most of Gaza** and a **cessation of hostilities between Israel and HAMAS.**
- **By the end of Phase One, HAMAS will still retain about two-thirds of the hostages in captivity**, Israeli forces will remain in parts of Gaza, and many major Palestinian prisoners will remain in Israeli jails. Once all 33 hostages of Phase one are returned home, Israel will release 47 prisoners who were re-arrested after being freed in the 2011 Gilad Shalit deal.
- During the proposed second phase which will also last 42 days, Israel and HAMAS would declare a “permanent cessation of hostilities,” Israeli forces would withdraw from Gaza and all remaining living hostages would be traded for Palestinian prisoners.
- A proposed third phase of 42 days calls for the exchange of all remaining bodies of dead Israeli hostages for dead Palestinian terrorists held by Israel and the end to the siege of the Gaza Strip.



Sunday January 19, 2025: 2nd Ceasefire Began on Day 470

- January 19: Day One of the Second Ceasefire
- **3 Israeli hostages were released from HAMAS captivity** - Romi Gonen, Emily Damari (who also holds British citizenship) and Doron Steinbrecher (who also holds Romanian citizenship)
- **90 Palestinian prisoners (all women or minors) were released** from Israeli prison
- IDF moved its forces eastward
- 630 trucks of humanitarian aid entered Gaza, the most in one day since October 7, 2023

Pictured from L-R: Romi Gonen, Emily Damari, Doron Steinbrecher



Saturday January 25, 2025: 2nd Ceasefire Continues

- January 25: Day Seven of the Second Ceasefire
- **4 female Israeli soldiers were released in exchange for the release of 200 Palestinian prisoners including dozens serving life sentences for murdering Israelis.**
- Their release included a show of force by HAMAS demonstrating the terrorist group's continued power in Gaza
- Residents of Northern Gaza were supposed to be allowed to return home but because a remaining female Israeli civilian was not released, Israel delayed this concession. US private security contractors were set to conduct security checks of Gazans returning home by car

4 hostages released on January 25, 2025 pictured L-R: Liri Albag, Karina Ariev, Naama Levy, and Daniella Gilboa (who also holds Bulgarian citizenship).



Example of Palestinian Prisoner Released

- **Mohammad Odeh was released on January 25, 2025 as part of the ceasefire**
- He was a member of a HAMAS cell in Jerusalem **responsible for a series of bombings that killed over 30 Israelis** in crowded civilian areas.
- In 2002, he planted a bomb in the cafeteria of the Hebrew University, **killing 4 Israelis and 5 US citizens** and injuring 100 Israelis, Arabs, and foreign nationals.



Mohammad Odeh

Thursday January 30, 2025: 2nd Ceasefire Continued

- January 30: Day Twelve of the Second Ceasefire
 - **1 female Israeli soldier, 2 civilians, and 5 Thai nationals were released from captivity by HAMAS. The Israelis were exchanged for the release of 110 Palestinian prisoners - 30 for each civilian and 50 for Agam Berger, an IDF soldier. 33 Palestinian prisoners of the 110 released were serving life sentences for murdering Israelis.**
 - Gadi Mozes was the first male hostage to be released under the second ceasefire agreement. Until he met Israeli hostage Arbel Yehoud in the hours before their release, Arbel had not seen another Israeli during her entire 482 days of captivity.
 - Agam Berger was the last remaining female IDF soldier in HAMAS captivity.



From L - R: Arbel Yehoud, Gadi Mozes, Agam Berger



Five Thai nationals released, Top row (L-R): Sriaoun Watchara, Rumnao Surasak, and Sathian Suwannakham; bottom row (L-R) Thenna Pongsak and Seathao Bannawat,



Example of Palestinian Prisoner Released

- **Zakaria al-Zubeidi** was released on **January 30, 2025** as part of the ceasefire
- He was a leader of the Second Intifada, serving as the **commander of the Jenin branch of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades**.
- He took personal responsibility for a terrorist attack in Israel in 2002 when 6 Israelis were shot dead.
- In 2004, **Zubeidi took responsibility for a bombing in Tel Aviv** that killed one teenager and injured more than 30 Israelis.



Zakaria Zubeidi, 2004.

Saturday February 1, 2025: 2nd Ceasefire Continued

February 1: Day Fourteen of the Second Ceasefire

- **3 male Israeli civilians were released in exchange for the release of 183 Palestinian prisoners including some serving life sentences for murdering Israelis.**
- As part of the ceasefire agreement, **a border crossing at Rafah was opened for the first time since IDF soldiers took control of the crossing in May 2024,** allowing 50 Palestinians to cross into Egypt for medical treatment.
- While released hostage Yarden Bibas only retains Israeli citizenship, hostage Keith Siegel has American citizenship and Ofer Kalderon has French citizenship. Another 6 American hostages were still in captivity as of February 1, 2025.
- For the first time, Israel released some of the Gazans detained inside Gaza since the war began. 111 of the released prisoners were detained inside Gaza by the IDF on suspicion of militancy. The remaining 72 prisoners released were all men aged 30-66 who were arrested prior to October 7, 2023 and serving long sentences or life sentences for deadly attacks against Israelis.



From L-R: Yarden Bibas, Ofer Kalderon, Keith Siegel



Example of Palestinian Prisoner Released

- **Shadi Amouri was released on February 1, 2025 as part of the ceasefire**
 - He was arrested for **manufacturing the powerful car bomb that detonated inside an Israeli public bus packed with passengers on June 5, 2002, killing 17 Israelis**. This attack was known as the Megiddo Junction suicide bombing.
 - He was serving 17 life sentences for this attack on a bus taking passengers from Tel Aviv to Tiberias and was deported to Egypt.

Image taken shortly after the Megiddo junction suicide bombing when a suicide attacker exploded a powerful car bomb next to a packed bus during morning rush hour on June 5, 2002 during the Second Intifada.



Saturday February 8, 2025: 2nd Ceasefire Continues

- February 8: Day Twenty One of the Second Ceasefire of the Second Ceasefire
- **3 male Israeli civilians were released in exchange for the release of 183 Palestinian prisoners including 18 serving life sentences, 54 serving long sentences, and 111 detained in Gaza during the war.**
- Released Israeli hostages Ohad Ben Ami (who also holds German citizenship) and Eli Sharabi were taken from Kibbutz Be'eri while Or Levy was abducted from the Nova music festival. Their gaunt appearances upon returned shocked Israelis.
- On February 9, the **IDF withdrew all forces from the Netzarim Corridor.**
- On February 11, IDF announced that **hostage Shlomo Mantzur aged 85 was dead** with his body being held by HAMAS. He was the oldest hostage in Gaza. This announcement was possibly due to intelligence gained from the hostages released two days prior.

From L-R: Eli Sharabi, Or Levy, and Ohad Ben Ami at a "ceremony" held by HAMAS on the day of their release from captivity.



Example of Palestinian Prisoner Released

- **Eyad Abu Shkaidem was released on February 8, 2025 as part of the ceasefire**
- He was a HAMAS commander during the Second Intifada.
- He was serving **18 life sentences for orchestrating 2 suicide bombings on buses in Be'er Sheba** in 2004 that killed 16 and injured 100, including many children as well as preparing a suicide bombing of the Kafit coffee shop in Jerusalem in 2004 which was thwarted by Israel.
- The busses were local public buses traveling along the main street in Be'er Sheba in the early afternoon. The suicide bombers denoted their explosives within 2 minutes of each other when the buses were about 100 yards from each other. HAMAS claimed responsibility for the attack.



Eyad Abu Shkaidem upon his release from Israeli prison.

Saturday February 15, 2025: 2nd Ceasefire Continues

- February 15: Day Twenty Eight of the Second Ceasefire of the Second Ceasefire
- **3 male Israeli civilians were released in exchange for the release of 369 Palestinian prisoners, including 333 Palestinian prisoners detained in Gaza during the war.**
- Released Israeli hostages Sagui Dekel-Chen (who also holds US citizenship), Alexandre "Sasha" Troufanov (who also holds Russian citizenship) and Yair Horn (who also holds Argentinian citizenship) were all taken from Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7, 2023.

From L-R: Alexandre Troufanov, Sagui Dekel-Chen, and Yair Horn.



Example of Palestinian Prisoner Released

- **Ahmed Barghouti** was released on February 15, 2025 as part of the ceasefire
- He was **a top aide to Marwan Barghouti, the military leader of the Second Intifada**. He served as his chief of staff and director of terrorist attacks against Israel under Marwan's direction.
- He later served as the Ramallah Commander in the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, he was serving 13 life sentences for organizing attacks against Israelis during the early 2000s. **He was responsible for many deadly attacks** ranging from a shooting spree in downtown Jerusalem, the shooting spree at Tel Aviv's Seafood Market restaurant in March of 2002 and several thwarted suicide bombings.



Ahmed Barghouti,
pictured upon his arrest



Remaining Hostages Planned for Release in First Phase of 2nd Ceasefire

■ Remaining women and children to be released in Phase One:

- Kfir Bibas (2), Ariel Bibas (5), and Shiri Silberman Bibas (33)

■ Remaining 5 men 50 and older to be released in Phase One:

- Tsahi Idan (50), Ohad Yahalomi (50, who also holds French citizenship)
- Itzik Elgarat (70, also holds Danish citizenship), Oded Lifshitz (84, also holds Polish citizenship), and Shlomo Mansour (86)

■ Remaining 11 men under 50 sick or injured to be released in Phase One:

- Omer Shem-Tov (22), Omer Wenkert (23, also holds Romanian citizenship), Eliya Cohen (27), Hisham al-Sayed (36), Avera Mengistu (38), Tal Shoham (39, also holds Austrian citizenship)

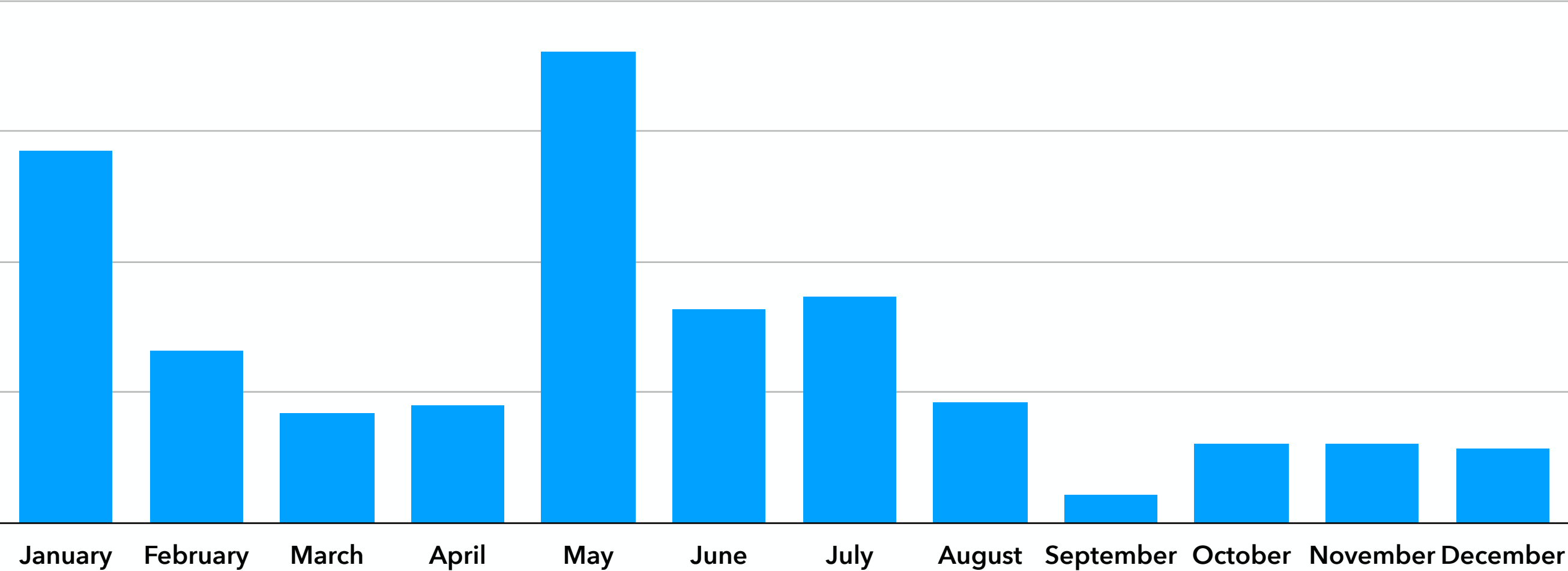
The orange highlight indicates hostages released after the 500th day of war, but prior to this report's publication.

Screenshot of October 7, 2023 kidnapping of Shiri, Ariel and Kfir Bibas by HAMAS to Gaza.



Rocket Launches from Gaza into Israel 2024

**In January 2025, there were 0.*



Regional Effects of the Ceasefire

- January 22: In response to the ceasefire, **the Houthis released the 25-member international crew of a merchant vessel**, the Galaxy Leader, that the Houthis hijacked in November 2023.
- January 24: **Houthi terrorists signaled that they have suspended their attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea**, but would renew their attacks if the Israel-HAMAS ceasefire breaks down or if the Houthis were targeted by Israel or the US.
- January 25: **On the 60th day since ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel took affect, Israeli forces remain in Lebanon** despite the original agreement to leave all of Southern Lebanon. This is due to the delays by the Lebanese Army in taking control of Southern Lebanon.



Winding Down of War, Not Just in Gaza

- **The war is not over, but with the second ceasefire it came to a near standstill.**
- **IDF operations in Gaza were halted** as part of the Second Ceasefire and forces were moved to operational activity in the West Bank.
- **Hezbollah was not destroyed but it was significantly diminished** and has yet to return to attacking Israel, despite dozens of Israeli airstrikes on Hezbollah targets that were infringements of the current Lebanon-Israel ceasefire. The Lebanese government accepted Israeli demands to extend the deployment of the IDF in Southern Lebanon, despite Hezbollah opposition.
- In Syria, a domestic revolution brought an anti-Shiite coalition to power which so far has blocked Iran's land and aerial access to Lebanon to rebuild Hezbollah. IDF was still holding a buffer zone inside Syria.
- Attempted **attacks from Iraq and Yemen were non-existent** since the ceasefire began even though it was not part of the agreement.
- **Iran was weakened by Israeli attacks on anti-aircraft batteries and factories** critical to Iran's domestic missile production.



Humanitarian Aid into Gaza

- The number of trucks bringing humanitarian aid to Gaza doubled to 600-915 per day in February.
- Gazan civilians have complained on social media that the **humanitarian aid doesn't reach the population, rather it is hoarded and sold by HAMAS** in order to fund salaries and retain power over the population.
- Following the declaration of the second ceasefire in January of 2025, data on humanitarian aid delivered into Gaza ceased to be published daily by the IDF. Other groups, including the UN, continued to publish unverified reports (including that over 1 million Gazans received food assistance since the Second Ceasefire began).



Israel-HAMAS War: *Moving Forward*



500 Days of War, By the Numbers

Gaza (as reported by HAMAS or IDF):

- Over 1.9M Gazans displaced
- HAMAS Ministry of Health reports over 47,280 killed Gazans. *They do not differentiate between terrorists and civilians. Western analyses have proved that the data on Gazans killed since October 7 is completely unreliable.*
- **Over 13,400** missiles, rockets, and mortars fired from Gaza into Israel

HAMAS (as reported by IDF):

- HAMAS top leadership still alive, but many HAMAS terrorists killed, including:
 - >8 members of HAMAS political leadership
 - 8 HAMAS Brigade Commanders
 - 30 HAMAS Battalion Commanders or similar rank
 - 165 HAMAS Company Commanders
 - **>17,000 HAMAS fighters killed** - and 3,464 captured

Lebanon (Hezbollah) & Yemen (Houthis):

- >4,050 terrorists in Lebanon killed by IDF including 24 Brigade Commanders, 27 Battalion Commanders and 63 Platoon Commanders; 4,500 Hezbollah positions struck by IDF; over 1.2M Lebanese displaced
- Israeli Defense Minister: Half of Hezbollah's commanders in southern Lebanon were killed by the IDF
- **>19,500**, rockets, and mortars fired from Lebanon into Israel
- 370 Houthi attacks against Israel, 400 Houthi naval attacks against international shipping
- 15,192 air raid sirens alerted in Northern Israel since October 7



500 Days of War, By the Numbers

IDF (Data from INSS):

- 846 IDF soldiers and local security officers killed and over 4,400 wounded since October 7
- ~41,000 targets struck in Gaza by IDF and IAF, including >3,400 HAMAS sites discovered during the war
- IDF made 100,000 phone calls, dropped 9.3M leaflets, sent 15.5M text messages, and made 17M recorded calls to Palestinians in Gaza with evacuation warnings
- IDF soldiers **destroyed over 60%** of the over 1,500 terror tunnel shafts found in Gaza

Israel:

- 1,850 Israeli casualties, including over 40 babies murdered, over 24,040 injured
- **>200,000 Israelis have been displaced**
- Over 27,000 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 >90% of rocket and missile fire at Israel from Gaza
- **63 hostages in Gaza, including at least 36 deceased hostages**

By the 475th day of the war, Israel inspected **over 66,400 trucks of humanitarian aid for Gaza, carrying >1.3 million metric tons** of aid.



500 Days of War, By the Numbers

May 12: Turkish President **Erdogan said more than 1,000 members of HAMAS were being treated in Turkish hospitals**, suggesting they had been smuggled out via Egypt since October 7.



Until 6 May, the UN claimed (quoting Hamas numbers) that of the nearly 35,000 Gazans killed in the war 9,500 were women and 14,500 were children - i.e. approximately 68% of the killed. **Suddenly, two days later, the UN approximately halved the numbers** to nearly 5,000 women and 7,800 children - i.e. approximately 36.5% of the killed.

An Israeli Government report submitted to the UN revealed that **2 Israeli teenage hostages were forced to perform sexual acts on one another and their captors sexually abused them**

"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 casualties was Israel's distribution of IDF military maps 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."



HAMAS Continues Calls for Another October 7 Massacre

October 24, 2023



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



December 5, 2023



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."**

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



Hezbollah Leader Naim Qassem Rejects 2 State Solution

Deputy Secretary-General of Hezbollah Sheikh Naim Qassem said in a May 31, 2024 press conference that was aired on Mayadeen TV (Lebanon) that Palestine will be liberated through resistance, guns, blood, and Jihad, and not through negotiations or political means.

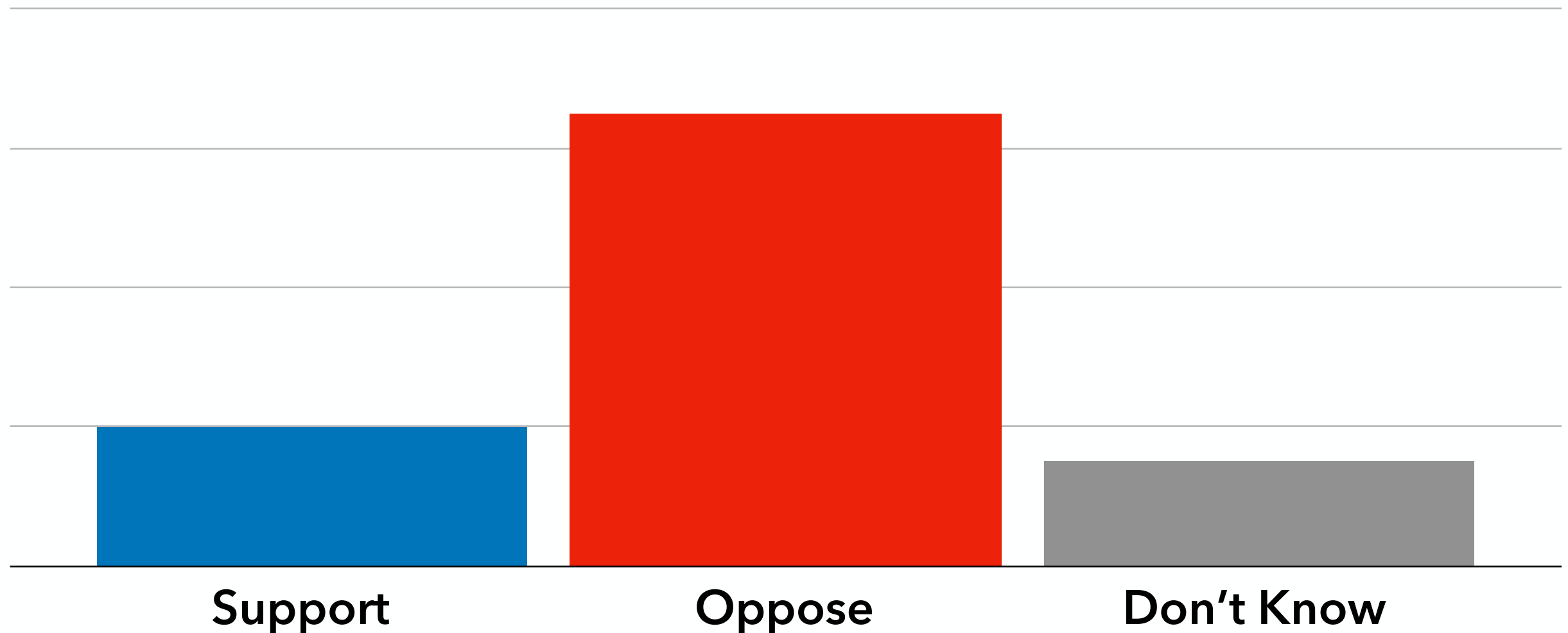
May 31, 2024



"The future of this Palestinian path of liberation lies with **the liberation of Palestine in its entirety, from the River to the Sea - not with two states or a state that is cut into pieces.** The future lies with the liberation of the land of Palestine in its entirety."

Majority of Israeli voters oppose a 2 State Solution

Do you (ROTATE) support or oppose the two state solution - a Palestinian state next to the State of Israel - as the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? (RANDOMIZE)



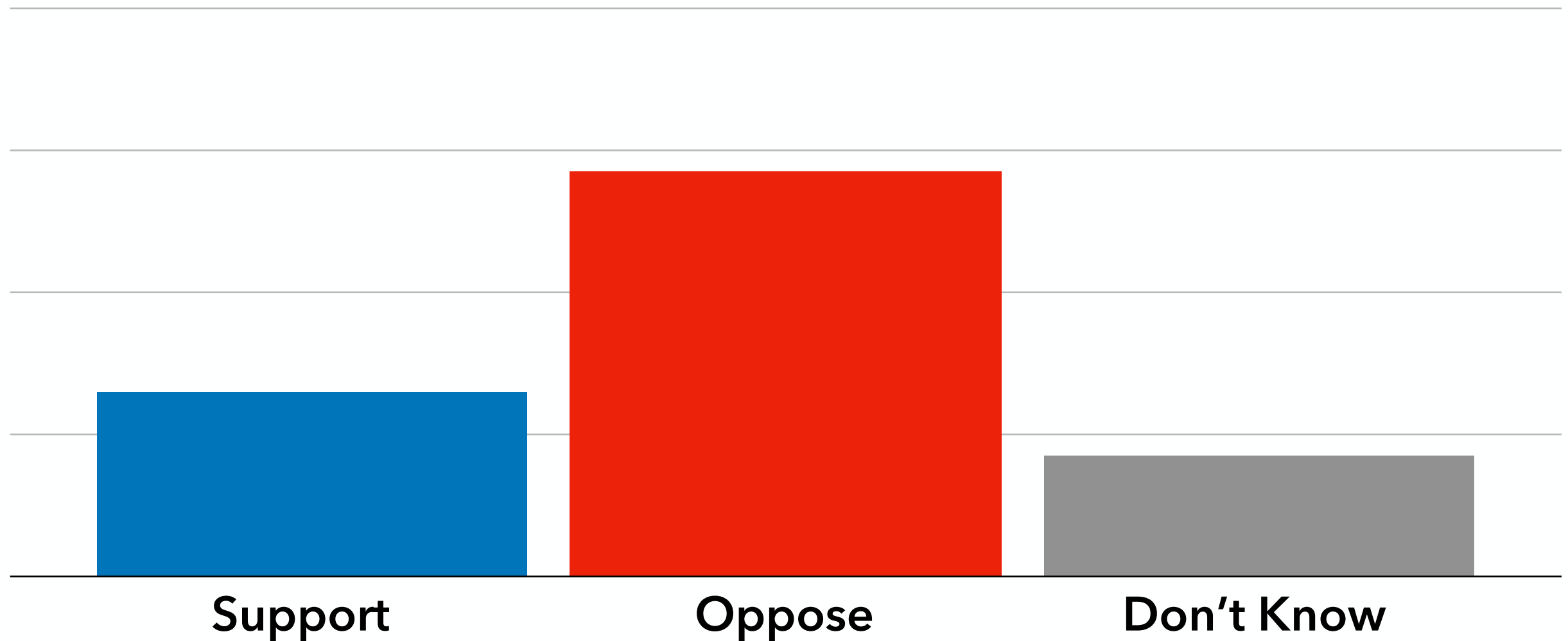
Panels LTD. for Council for a Secure America July 8 - July 10, 2024. Sample size 612 likely Israeli-Jewish voters, conducted via online panel, telephone, and cellphone contact. Margin of error +/-4%



www.CouncilForSecureAmerica.org

In a hypothetical situation where Hamas in Gaza is eradicated, support for the 2 State Solution increases only from 20% to 26%

And if Israel will succeed in completely eradicating Hamas in Gaza, would you (ROTATE) support or oppose a two state solution? (RANDOMIZE)



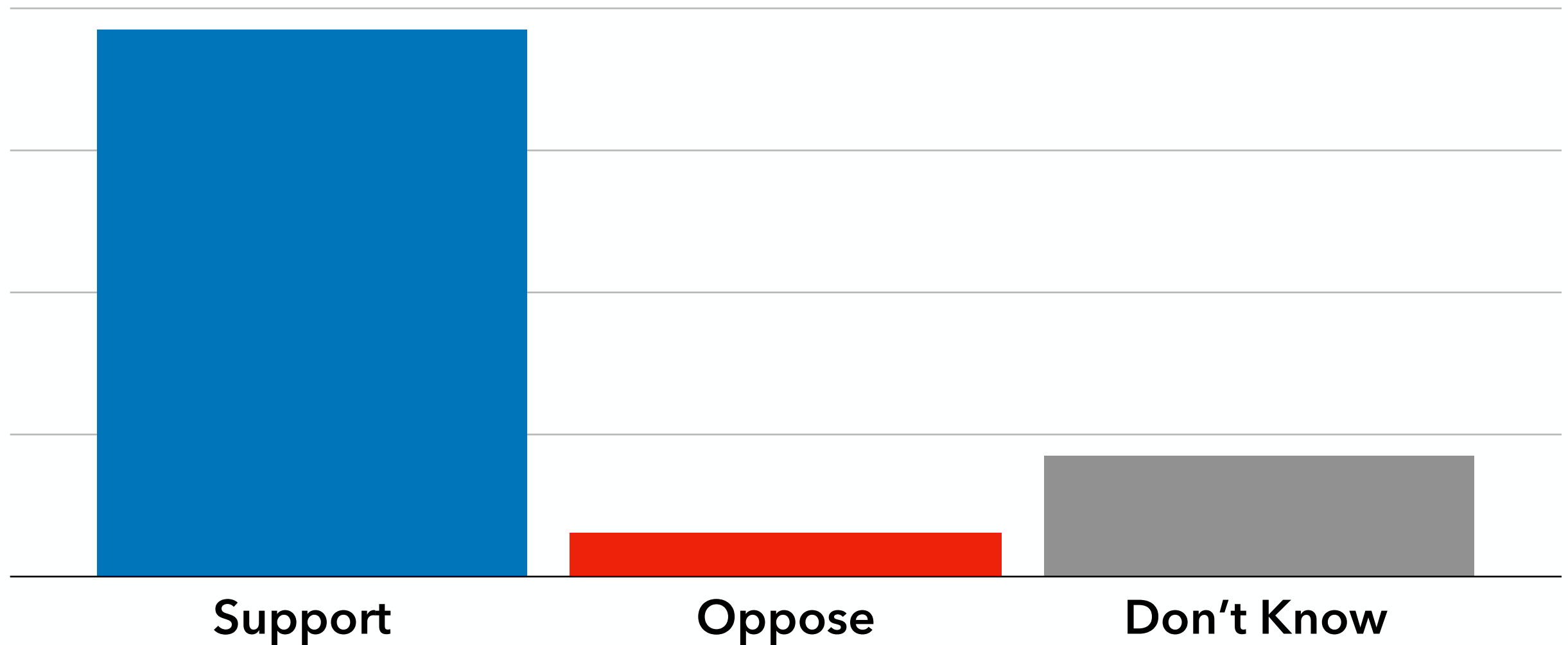
Panels LTD. for Council for a Secure America July 8 - July 10, 2024. Sample size 612 likely Israeli-Jewish voters, conducted via online panel, telephone, and cellphone contact. Margin of error +/-4%



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Abraham Accords wildly popular amongst Israeli voters

Do you (ROTATE) support or oppose the diplomatic agreements between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco - the agreements known as the Abraham Accords? (ROTATE)



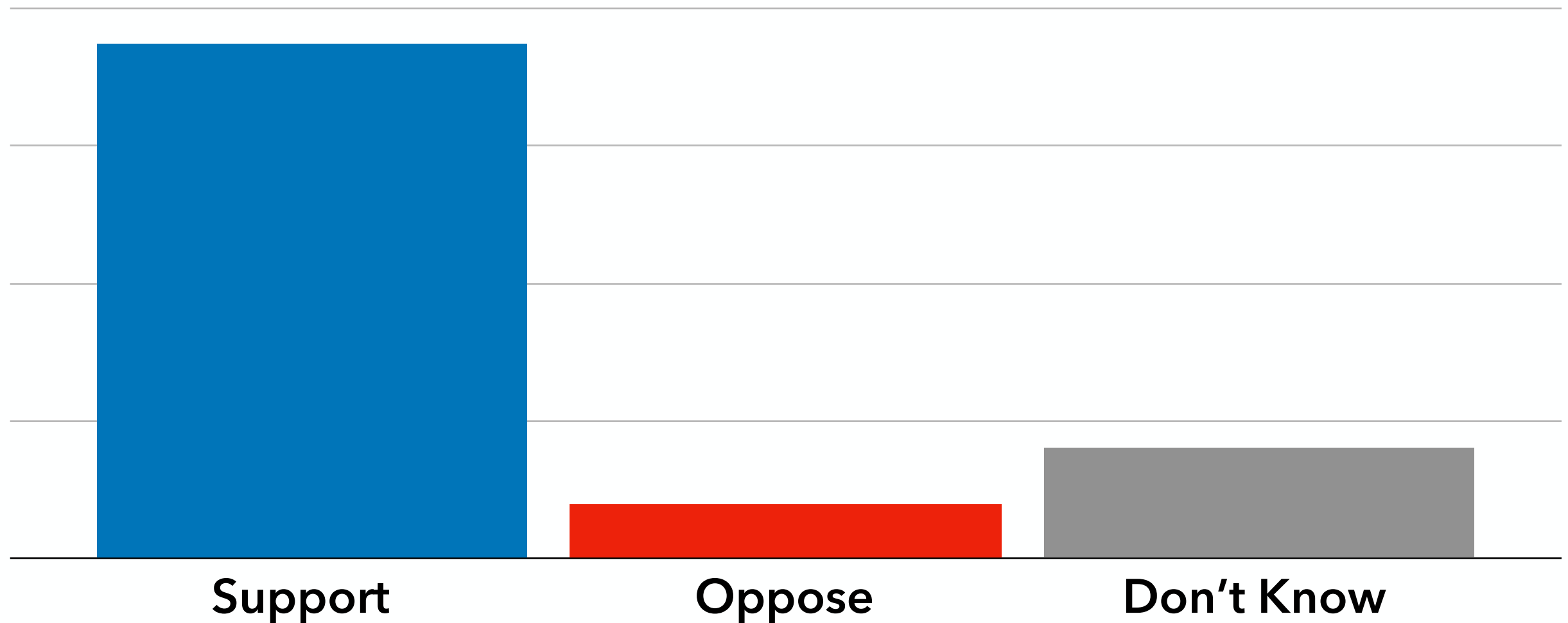
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Potential Israel-Saudi deal also wildly popular amongst Israel voters

Do you support or oppose a future diplomatic agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia?
(ROTATE)



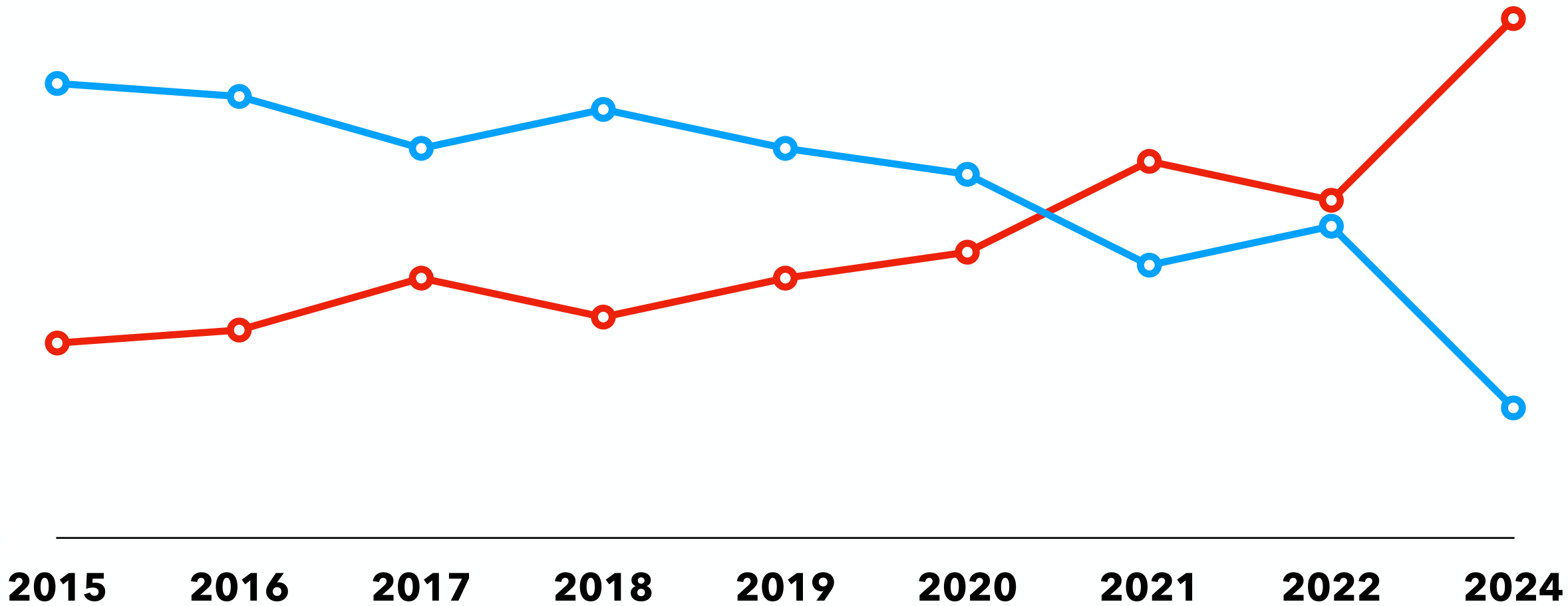
Panels LTD. for Council for a Secure America July 8 - July 10, 2024. Sample size 612 likely Israeli-Jewish voters, conducted via online panel, telephone, and cellphone contact. Margin of error +/-4%



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Israeli Jewish Public Opinion Collected March 7-10, 2024: Low Support for the 2 State Solution

○ Support 2 State Solution ○ Oppose 2 State Solution

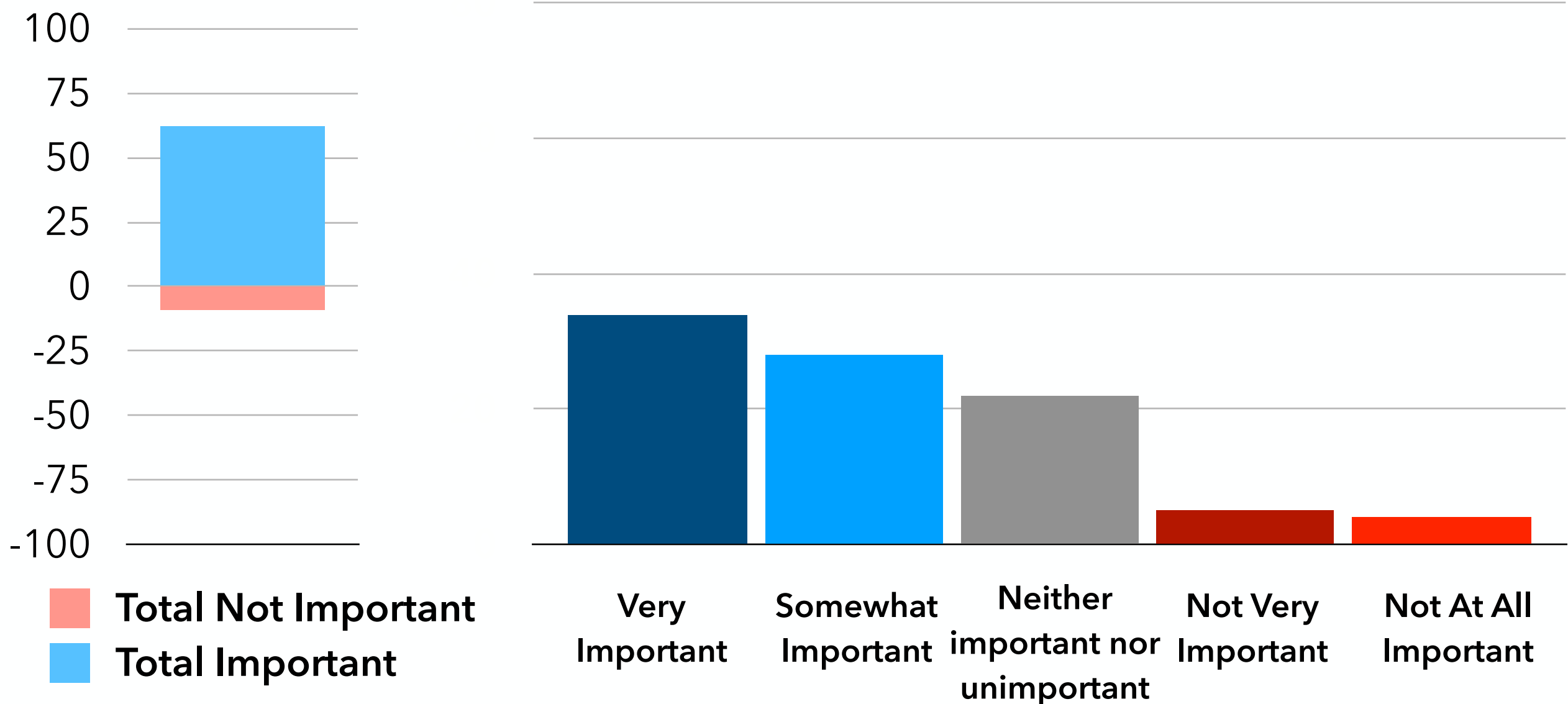


Institute for National Security Studies (Israel) Research carried out between March 7-10 2024 by the Rafi Smith Institute, during which 500 men and women were interviewed online, constituting a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel aged 18 and over. The maximum margin of error for the sample is 4% with a 95% confidence level.
Margin of error +/-3%



Majority of Americans View US-Israel Relationship As Important

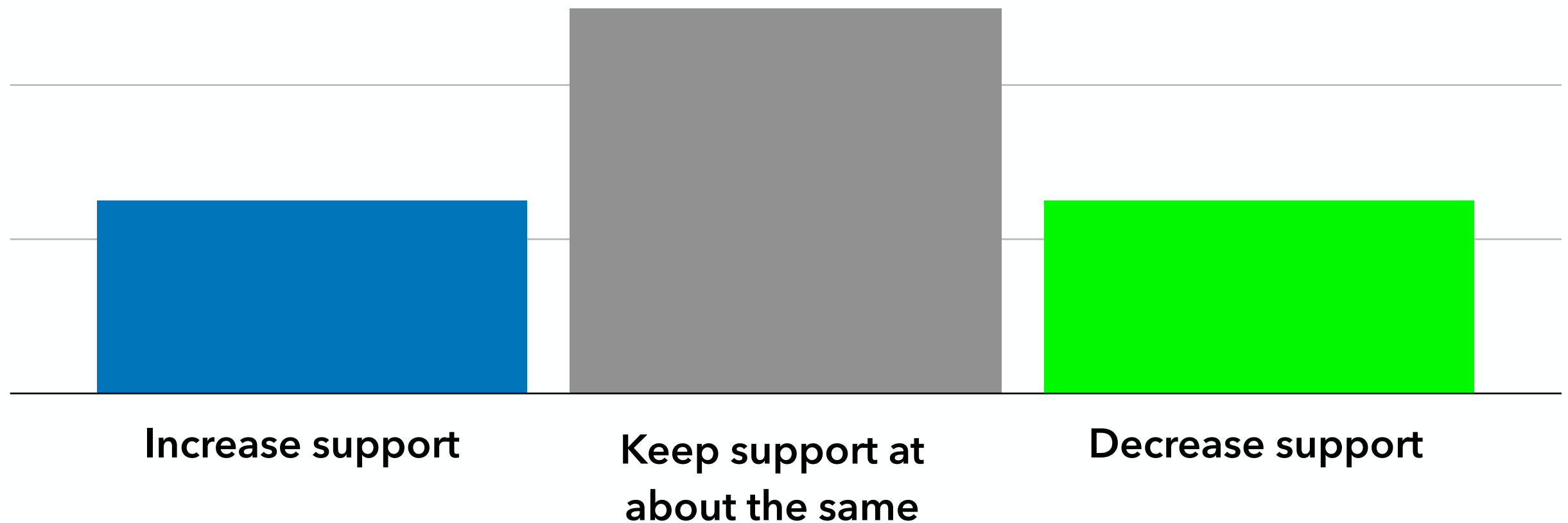
In your opinion, how important or not important do you think the United States' relationship is with the State of Israel? (ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)



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Most Americans Want to Maintain US Support for Israel's Military Efforts

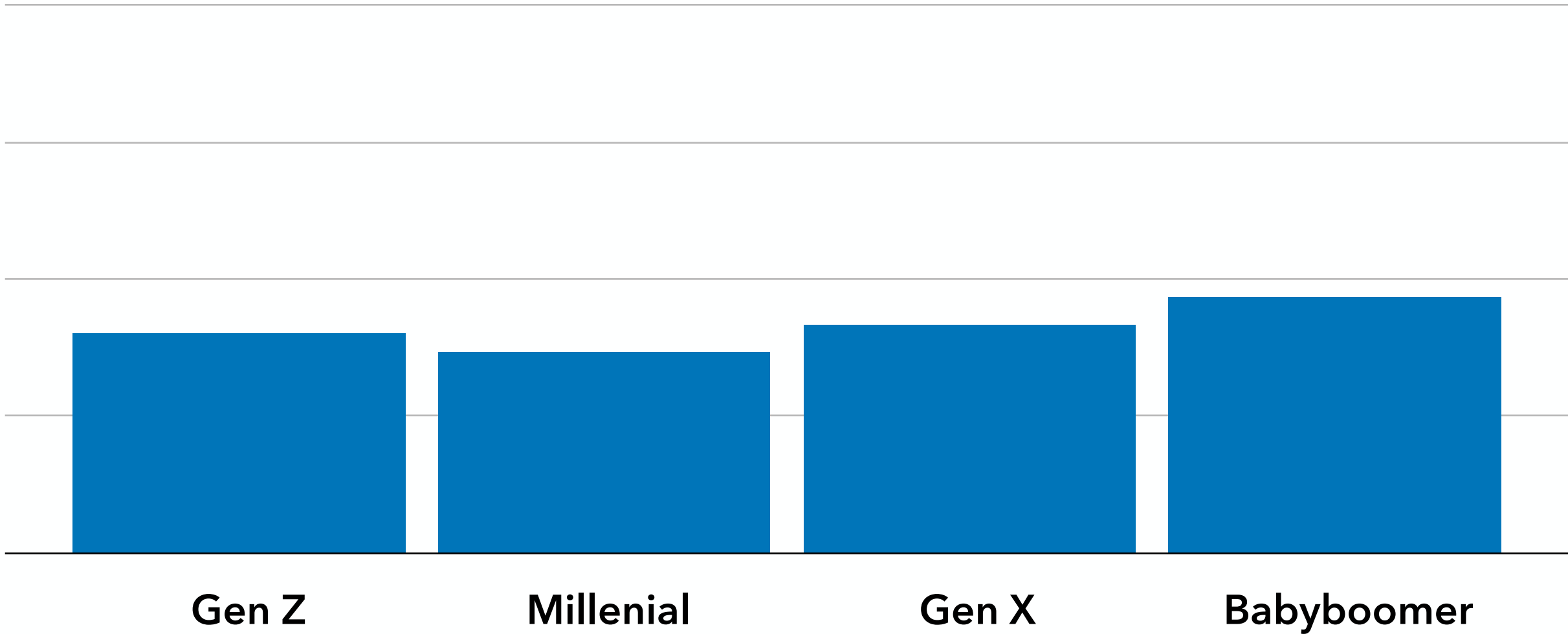
Thinking about the conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Iran's proxies (Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis), do you think the United States should increase support for Israel's military efforts, decrease support for Israel's military efforts, or keep support about the same?



US Support for Israel's Military Efforts By Age

Thinking about the conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Iran's proxies (Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis), do you think the United States should increase support for Israel's military efforts, decrease support for Israel's military efforts, or keep support about the same? (BY AGE)

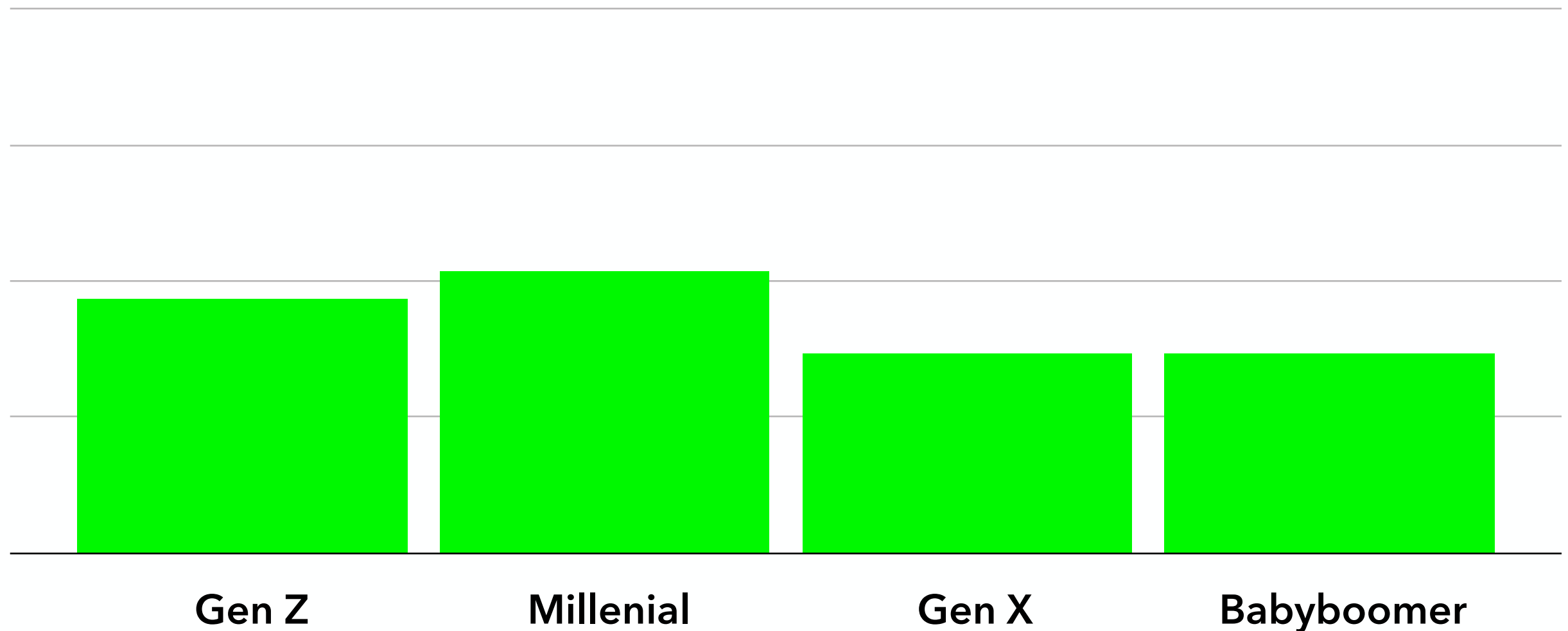
Answering "Increase support" ONLY



US Support for Israel's Military Efforts By Age

Thinking about the conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Iran's proxies (Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis), do you think the United States should increase support for Israel's military efforts, decrease support for Israel's military efforts, or keep support about the same? (BY AGE)

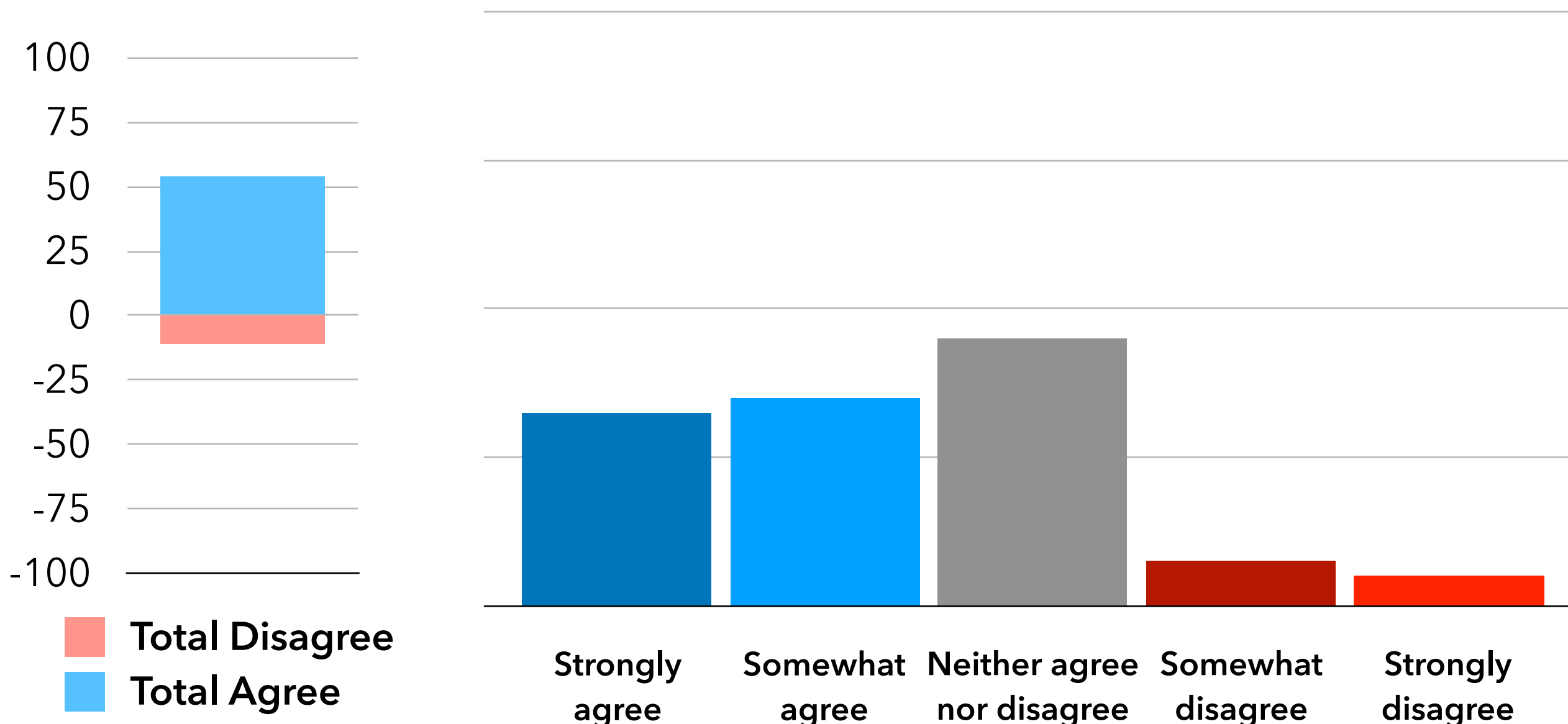
Answering "Decrease support" ONLY



Most Americans Agree Iran's Proxies Threaten the US and Western Allies

To what extent do you agree or disagree, if at all, with the following statement?

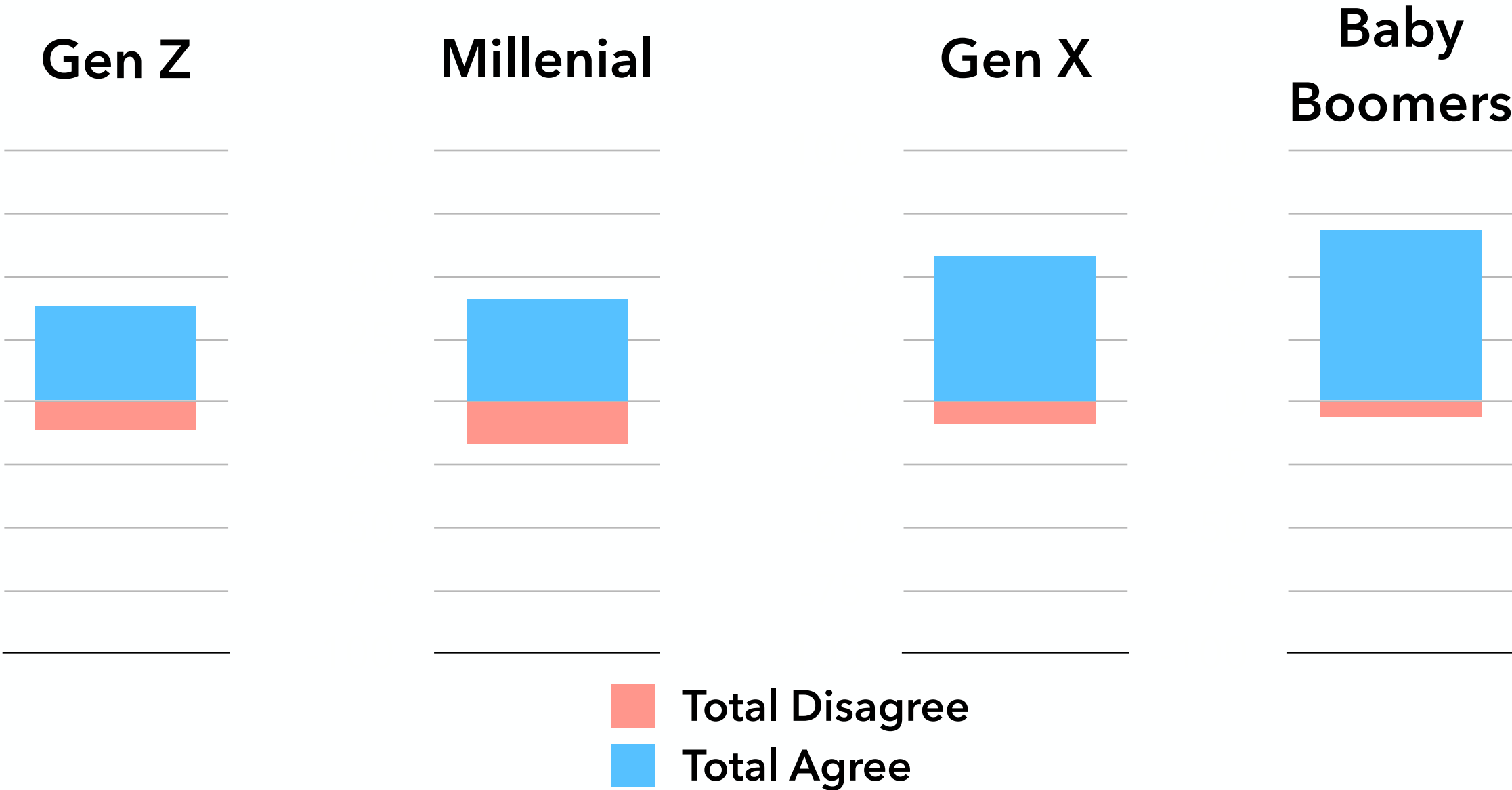
"Iran's proxies in the Middle East, such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis, pose a direct threat on the United States and our Western Allies"



www.CouncilForSecureAmerica.org

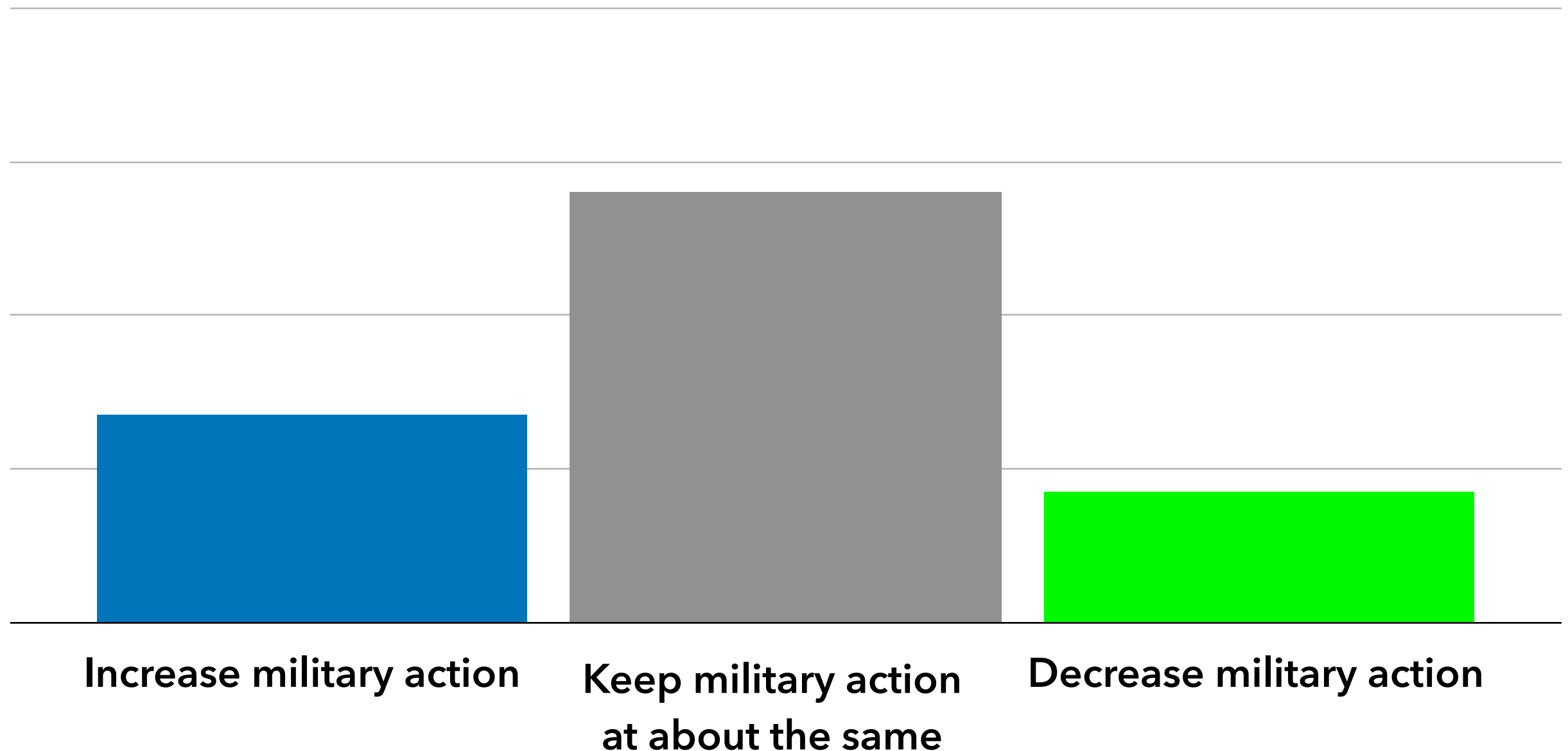
Iran's Proxies Threaten the US and Western Allies By Age

To what extent do you agree or disagree, if at all, with the following statement?
“Iran’s proxies in the Middle East, such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis, pose a direct threat on the United States and our Western Allies” (BY AGE)



Most Americans Want to Maintain Current Levels of US Military Action Against Iran and Iranian Proxies

And do you think the United States' military action against Iran and Iran's proxies Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis should increase, decrease, or continue in the same manner?



The Cost to Israel's Economy

- October 24, 2023: S&P Global Ratings revises Israel outlook to negative (from stable), reaffirms AA-/A-1+ ratings February 10: US rating's agency Moody's downgraded Israel's credit rating from A1 to A2 and lowered its outlook for Israel's debt to "negative"
- January 28 2024: S&P Global Ratings suggested Israel's credit rating could be cut if war expands
- April 15, 2024 report from Israel's Finance Ministry suggests:
 - Israel raised \$43 billion in debt in 2023, half out after October 7 2023 (compared to approximately \$16.7 billion in 2022)
 - Total debt amounted to 62.1% of GDP (up from 60.5% in 2022) and is expected to climb to 67% in 2024
 - **Government expenditures for the years 2023-2024 increased by ~\$26.6 billion USD billion due to the costs of the war**



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 **HAMAS or Hezbollah fighters could potentially enter the US via the southern border.**

January 10, 2024 POLITICO: "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: two Iranians are detained in Cyprus with support from Israel's Mossad for allegedly **planning an attack on Israelis in Cyprus**.
- Dec. 11: a suspect in Austria was **arrested after announcing his intention to attack a synagogue**. They had instructions for making bombs and images of Jewish and Israeli targets on their cellphones.
- Dec. 14: **Senior Hamas terrorists in Denmark and Germany were arrested** on suspicion of plotting to carry out an act of terror killing civilians in Europe, with support from Israel's Mossad.
- Jan. 31: **'Live device' detonated by police outside the Israeli embassy** 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**.
- March 11: **3 Palestinians in Italy were arrested** for planning to carry out terror attacks, **including a suicide attack**.
- October 2: **Explosive devices (likely hand grenades) were used against the Israeli Embassy in Denmark**.



Will Hate Violence Spread in the US?

- Oct 7 - Nov 20: the Anti-Defamation League tracked 832 anti-Jewish acts in the United States. **Although Jewish-Americans are 2.4% of the U.S. population, they are the targets of more than half of all reported religion-based hate crimes.**
- **69 year-old Jewish man was killed** during a clash in Los Angeles 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 Jewish school in Toronto while a surge of antisemitism spread through Europe since October 7, including the stabbing of a woman in France and antisemitic incidents in France, Italy, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Greece, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Poland, and the Netherlands.
- A 32 year old Jewish woman in Paris was allegedly **the victim of kidnapping and rape to "avenge Palestine"**. In June 2024, a 12-year-old Jewish girl was the victim of an **antisemitic gang rape and 6 Jewish minors were attacked in Paris.**
- **Antisemitic attacks and violence spread in Los Angeles on Sunday June 23**

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!"



April 2024: US College Campuses Outburst in Violence



Map of US colleges where anti-Israel protesters have been arrested

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.

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.



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 a counter-guerilla offensive. How long will this last?
- 120 hostages remain in captivity in Gaza, including women and children. At least 43 are dead and 6 are also American citizens. What is the future of these hostages?
- Will the humanitarian situation in Gaza improve, especially as HAMAS continues to steal and hoard aid for its own use?
- Who will rule Gaza? Reports indicate HAMAS is already returning to power in Northern Gaza. It's possible soldiers from Arab countries will serve as peacekeepers.
- What will happen on the Israel-Lebanon border?
- Attacks from the Islamic Resistance in Iraq against Israel are increasing exponentially. Will Israel respond?
- How will the world protect the 10-15% of global trade that passes through the Red Sea from attacks from the Houthis in Yemen?
- Will US continue to engage Iran-backed militias in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen?





Israel-Hamas War

October 7, 2023 - February 17, 2025
500 Day Update



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