



Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update November 15, 2023

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JINSA's [Israel at War](#) webpage is a dedicated resource for analysis, commentary, webinars, and media coverage about the 10/7 attacks and the ensuing Israel-Hamas conflict. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

Analysis

- The advancement of IDF forces into the Shifa Hospital compound on November 15 to neutralize the Hamas headquarters that are underneath it will likely draw significant international condemnation. Hamas will likely seek to leverage the presence of Israeli forces at the hospital to accuse, erroneously, Israel of war crimes and spread disinformation about Israeli operations—despite Hamas being responsible for putting innocent civilians in danger by placing its headquarters at the hospital.
 - » Israel will need U.S. support for its operations against Hamas to prevent the terror group from building international pressure that pushes Israel to terminate the war before it achieves its objectives.
- The presence of an estimated 290,000 people at the March for Israel in Washington D.C. on November 14, the largest pro-Israel event in history, as well as a bipartisan group of members of Congress who spoke during the event, signaled the strong, enduring support in the United States for Israel.
 - » Speaking from the gathering with Marni Hughes of *News Nation*, JINSA's Jonathan Harounoff [noted](#) that “everyone here is extremely peaceful, no one wants continued war, but you have to ask what does a ceasefire actually mean ... What would happen is if Israel agreed to a complete ceasefire, that would give Hamas time to restore its ammunition and plan another October 7, an October 7 2.0.”

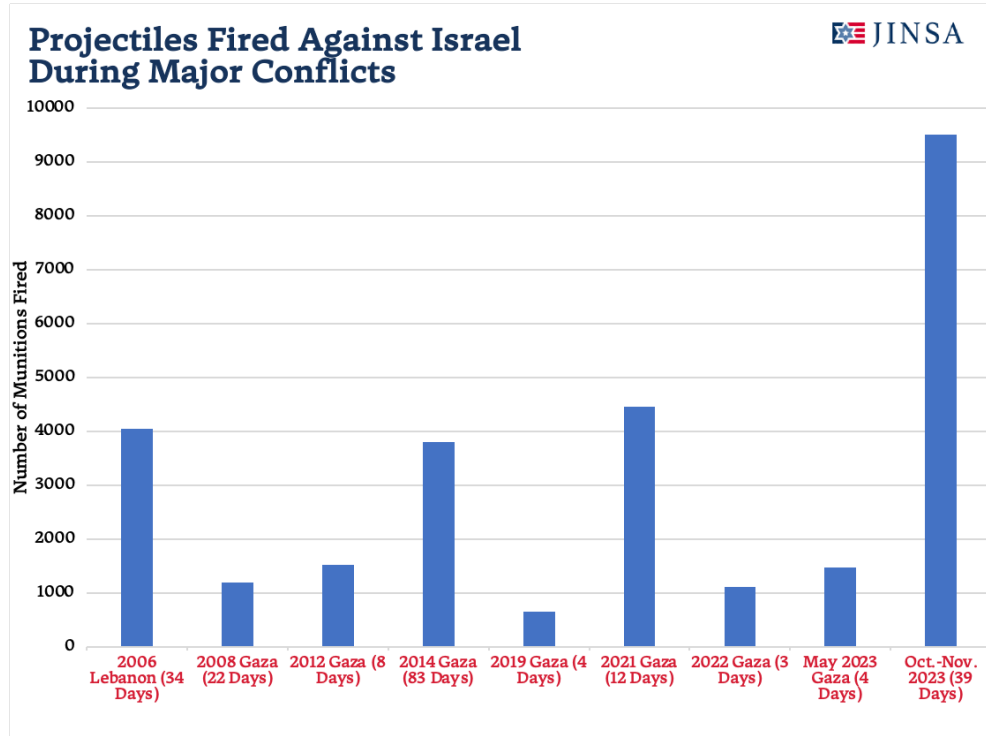
Last 24 Hours

Attacks Against Israel

- At least [9,500](#) rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired from Gaza during the war.
 - » Rockets struck [Ashkelon](#), injuring two men and triggering acute anxiety in another two people. Sirens sounded in Eilat, Tel Aviv, Sa'ad, Kerem Shalom, Alumim, Nahal Oz, Kiryat Shmona, Margalioth, Misgav Am, and Kfar Aza, as well as other locations in

southern Israel. In [Tel Aviv](#), a man in his twenties was seriously wounded, a forty-three-year-old woman was lightly injured, and a third person was moderately hurt from either a rocket impact or shrapnel propelled by an interception.

- On November 14, sirens [went off](#) in the southern Israeli city of Eilat. Later on, the IDF [said](#) that it used the long-range Arrow air defense system to intercept a surface-to-surface missile launched toward Eilat, likely by the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen.



IDF Operations

- On November 15, the IDF began ground operations in Gaza’s Shifa hospital compound, which it claims sits above a Hamas headquarters.
 - » The IDF [began](#) “carrying out a precise and targeted operation against Hamas in a specified area in the Shifa Hospital,” according to an IDF press release.
 - The IDF’s release also noted that “IDF forces include medical teams and Arabic speakers, who have undergone specified training to prepare for this complex and sensitive environment, with the intent that no harm is caused to the civilians being used by Hamas as human shields. In recent weeks, the IDF has publicly warned time and again that Hamas’ continued military use of the Shifa hospital jeopardizes its protected status under international law, and enabled ample time to stop this unlawful abuse of the hospital.”
 - Lt. Col. (res.) Peter Lerner [told](#) Anderson Cooper on *CNN* that the Shifa compound is “perhaps even the beating heart” of Hamas’s operations.
 - An unnamed Israeli security official [told](#) Israel’s Army Radio that the IDF is “starting small, and the operation will expand as necessary ... The entry of troops into Al-Shifa is more of a challenge for media [optics] than operations ... The decision was that we enter Al-Shifa only if we know exactly what is there and where it is, as we did

- at Rantisi Hospital, which was only [raided] when we knew exactly what was in its basement.”
- » According to an unnamed Israeli official, “IDF soldiers have already found [weapons](#) and other terror infrastructure,” including “concrete evidence that Hamas terrorists used the Shifa hospital as a terror headquarter[s].”
 - » The IDF released a [video](#) showing it [delivered](#) humanitarian aid, including incubators for newborns, baby food, and medical supplies to Shifa during its operations at the compound.
 - Elsewhere in northern Gaza, the IDF continued its ground operations to target terrorist personnel and infrastructure.
 - » On November 15, the IDF said troops from the Nahal Infantry Brigade and the 261st Brigade [raided](#) a Hamas training base in Gaza, locating dozens of weapons and a tunnel shaft.
 - » On November 15, the IDF said it [carried out](#) an overnight drone strike in Gaza against two Hamas operatives who exited a building and placed “bags suspected of being explosive devices” on a road used by IDF troops.
 - » On November 14, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [said](#) that the IDF has broken through Hamas’s northern and southern defenses around Gaza City and that the army is in control of northern Gaza above ground, particularly the city.
 - He said, “I authorized the army to continue advancing, both today and in the coming days, to complete the tasks. There will be no safe place [for Hamas] until we complete our mission and return the hostages.”
 - » On November 14, the 13th Battalion of the IDF’s Golani Brigade [recovered](#) equipment that Hamas stole from the unit during the October 7 attack. The troops located the equipment in the “governor’s house,” the nerve center for Hamas’s military wing, police, intelligence, and other assets. The IDF will return the equipment to Israel for examination.
 - Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [said](#) on November 14 that “the safety of the residents of the north [of Israel] and the residents of the south are equally important. We will know what to do against any threat.”
 - IDF spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari [said](#) on November 14 that Gazan hospitals risk losing their protected status under international law due to Hamas’s use of the hospital for terrorist activity.
 - » Rear Adm. Hagari said at a press conference that “in recent weeks we have stressed again, and again, that because of Hamas’s use of hospitals for military purposes, [the hospitals] will lose [their] special protection in the international court.”
 - » Rear Adm. Hagari also stated that al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City has been fully evacuated.
 - On November 14, war cabinet minister Benny Gantz [said](#) that even if Israel temporarily halts fighting as part of a hostage deal, Israel will ultimately continue its war efforts.
 - » Gantz stated, “even if a ceasefire is required order [sic] to return hostages, there will be no stopping the war,” and that “we continue until our goals are achieved.”

Casualties and Hostages

- Over 1,200 people in Israel have been [killed](#) and another 6,900 have been injured in the war.
 - » [370](#) Israeli soldiers have been killed.
 - Forty-eight IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - » Two IDF soldiers were [killed](#) and four were seriously wounded during combat operations in Gaza on November 14.
 - » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 32 [American](#) nationals, 34 [Thai](#) nationals, 21 [French](#) nationals, 17 [British](#) nationals, 10 [Nepalese](#) nationals, 7 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 16 [Russian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, 4 [Chinese](#) nationals, 3 [Brazilian](#) nationals, 3 [Belarusian](#) nationals, 3 [Philippines](#) nationals, 2 [Ukrainian](#) nationals, 2 [Peruvian](#) nationals, 5 [Canadian](#) nationals, a [Cambodian](#) national, a [Colombian](#) national, an [Irish](#) national, an [Italian](#) national, a [Spanish](#) national, a [Swiss](#) national, a [Turkish](#) national, and an [Austrian](#) national.
- According to unverified figures from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry, at least 11,320 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza and 29,200 have been injured during the war.
 - » On October 25, President Biden [cautioned](#) against trusting Gaza Health Ministry casualty figures, stating: “I have no notion that the Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed ... I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using.”
- According to the Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Ministry of Health, 182 people have been [killed](#) and an additional 2,700 have been [wounded](#) in the West Bank.
- The IDF [claims](#) that it has killed at least 1,500 infiltrators from Gaza since the start of the war.
- According to the IDF’s latest press release, the families of 239 individuals have been notified that their loved ones were [taken hostage](#).
- Foreign nationals also remain missing, including at least 11 [American](#) nationals, 9 [French](#) nationals, 15 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 9 [Ukrainian](#) nationals, 8 [Russian](#) nationals, 3 [Canadian](#) nationals, 3 [Philippines](#) nationals, 2 [Austrian](#) nationals, 3 [Italian](#) nationals, 2 [Paraguayan](#) nationals, 5 [Peruvian](#) nationals, 2 [Sri Lankan](#) nationals, 2 [Tanzanian](#) nationals, a [Chilean](#) national, an [Azeri](#) national, and a [Nepalese](#) national.
 - » At least 8 [German](#) nationals, 23 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, 3 [Romanian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals have been taken hostage.
- *Reuters* [reported](#) on November 15 that Hamas has agreed to the “general outlines” of a deal to release fifty civilian hostages in exchange for a three-day ceasefire, the release of an unspecified number of Palestinians from Israeli prisons, and Hamas producing a comprehensive list of the living hostages in Gaza.
- On November 14, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) that details about any hostage release deal will become publicly available “if and when” concrete developments arise. He stressed that “our hearts are with all the hostages and their families.”
 - » The prime minister also said, “since the beginning of the war we are working ceaselessly for the release of our captives, including the exertion of increasing pressure since the beginning of the ground operation.”

- On November 14, President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [spoke](#) by phone to discuss the war, including discussing “ongoing efforts to secure the release of hostages held by Hamas, including many children and a number of Americans.”
- Ziad Nakhleh, head of the Iran-backed terror group Palestinian Islamic Jihad, [said](#) on November 14 that “the conduct of negotiations with regard to the hostages that we detain and Israel’s reactions will probably push the Islamic Jihad out of the deal.”
 - » He also said, “Islamic Jihad can keep its hostages [while waiting] for better conditions.”

Humanitarian Aid

- The IDF [stated](#) that evacuation corridors will remain open on November 15 until 4:00 pm local time for civilian residents of Tal Al-Hawa, Al-Sabra, Al-Zeitoun, Al-Gharbi, Darj Al-Tuffah, Al-Shuja’iyya and Jabalia, through the Salah Al-Din route southward of Wadi Gaza. There will also be a pause of military operation between 10:00 am 2:00 pm local time in the neighborhoods of Al-Salam and Al-Nour to allow civilians to move south to the Salah Al-Din route.



Source: [Israel Defense Force](#)

- On November 15, the IDF [delivered](#) humanitarian aid, incubators for newborns, baby food, and medical supplies to Shifa during its operations at the compound.
- On November 15, according to Egyptian and Israeli media reports, a fuel truck [entered](#) Gaza through the Rafah crossing, the sole passageway between Gaza and Egypt, for the first time since the war began.
 - » An Egyptian official said the fuel will be given to the United Nations in Gaza to “facilitate the delivery of aid after trucks on the Palestinian side stopped operating for lack of fuel.”

Iranian Involvement and Response

- During On November 14, *CNN* [reported](#) that it had obtained a document from a computer found in a Hamas pickup truck outside Gaza showing a Hamas commander requesting a scholarship from Iran for Hamas operatives to study engineering, physics, and technology at Iranian universities.
 - » The report cited senior U.S. and Israeli officials as saying that the document is evidence Iran is seeking to provide technical training that would enable Hamas to make its own weapons.

U.S. and International Response

- Belize [suspended](#) diplomatic relations with Israel on November 15, with the Belizean government releasing a statement that “Israel has consistently violated international law” and is engaged in “unceasing indiscriminate bombing” in Gaza.
 - » Belize is the second Latin American country to suspend ties with Israel, following Bolivia’s decision to do so on November 1.
 - » Colombia, Chile, and Honduras have recalled their ambassadors to Israel.
- United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths [condemned](#) Israel’s combat operations in a November 15 post on X.
 - » Griffiths wrote that he was “appalled by reports of military raids in Al Shifa hospital in #Gaza. The protection of newborns, patients, medical staff and all civilians must override all other concerns. Hospitals are not battlegrounds.”
- On November 15, *BBC News* [issued](#) an apology after a *BBC* reporter claimed that Israel was targeting medical staff and Arabic speakers during its operation at al-Shifa Hospital.
 - » The *BBC* said its report was “incorrect and misquoted a Reuters report. What we should have said is that IDF forces included medical staff and Arabic speakers for this operation. We apologize for this error which fell below our usual editorial standards. The correct version of events was broadcast minutes later.”
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [said](#) in a parliamentary speech on November 15 that Israel is a “terrorist state.”
 - » Erdogan stated, “Israel is implementing a strategy of total destruction of a city and its people. I say openly that Israel is a terrorist state.”
 - » Later in the speech, Erdogan described Hamas as “resistance fighters.”
- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [said](#) at a news conference on November 14 that Israel must stop the “killing of women, of children, of babies” in the Gaza Strip.
 - » Trudeau added, “the price of justice cannot be the continued suffering of all Palestinian civilians” and “even wars have rules. All innocent life is equal in worth – Israel and Palestinians. I urge the Israeli government to exercise maximum restraint.”
 - » Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [responded](#) to Trudeau’s remarks on X, saying, “It is not Israel that is deliberately targeting civilians but Hamas that beheaded, burned and massacred civilians in the worst horrors perpetrated on Jews since the Holocaust. While Israel is doing everything to keep civilians out of harm’s way, Hamas is

- doing everything to keep them in harm's way. Israel provides civilians in Gaza humanitarian corridors and safe zones, Hamas prevents them from leaving at gunpoint.”
- » Netanyahu added, “it is Hamas not Israel that should be held accountable for committing a double war crime - targeting civilians while hiding behind civilians. The forces of civilization must back Israel in defeating Hamas barbarism.”
 - During a November 14 briefing, U.S. National Security Council Spokesperson John Kirby [said](#), “we have information that Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad use some hospitals in the Gaza Strip, including al-Shifa, and tunnels underneath them to conceal and to support their military operations and to hold hostages.”
 - » Kirby also said, “Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad members operate a command and control [center] from al-Shifa in Gaza City. They have stored weapons there and they’re prepared to respond to an Israeli military operation against that facility.”
 - » He stressed that the United States does not support an airstrike on the hospital as “hospitals and patients must be protected,” and innocents in the facility “deserve not to be caught in the crossfire.”
 - » Kirby acknowledged that Israel faces a difficult operation due to Hamas’s entrenchment within civilian populations but said that Israel still has a responsibility to protect civilians.
 - » He further noted that about 115 trucks carrying humanitarian aid entered Gaza during the last 24 hours for a total of 1,100 since the war began, and he said that 600 U.S. citizens have fled Gaza since the war started.
 - » In response, Hamas [claimed](#) that “these statements give a green light to the Israeli occupation to commit further brutal massacres targeting hospitals, with the goal of destroying Gaza’s healthcare system and displacing Palestinians ... The United States bears direct responsibility for enabling Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza.”
 - Roughly 290,000 people [attended](#) a rally to support Israel on November 14 in Washington, D.C., according to Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations CEO William Daroff, making it the largest pro-Israel gathering in history. The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations [organized](#) the event. Daroff said that another 250,000 people watched online and on C-SPAN.
 - » At the rally, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt [said](#), “I can tell you without hesitation, regardless of party or political persuasion at the White House or in the Congress at home, and abroad. This government stands shoulder to shoulder against Jew hatred.”
 - She also said, “today in America we give antisemitism no sanction, no foothold, no tolerance, not on campus, not in our schools, not in our neighborhoods, not in our streets or the streets of our cities. Not in our government. Nowhere. not now, not ever.”
 - Lipstadt denounced certain rhetoric of anti-Israel protesters, arguing, “when protesters chant ‘peace and glory to the martyrs,’ that incites more hatred, more deaths.”
 - She added, “it is a danger to the values and underpinning of the stability and decency of any society anywhere in the world. Hate is not a zero-sum game, hate and violence directed at any member of our society because of who they are is un-American and wrong.”

- » Israeli President Isaac Herzog [addressed](#) the rally virtually and said, “today we come together, as a family, one big *mishpacha*, to march for Israel. To march for the babies, the boys and girls, women and men viciously held hostage by Hamas.”
 - He continued, “to march for the right of every Jew to live proudly and safely in America, in Israel and around the world. Above all, we come together to march for good over evil, for human morality over blood thirst. We march for light over darkness.”
 - Herzog said further, “eighty years ago, Jews came out of Auschwitz and vowed ‘never again.’ As the blue and white flag was hoisted over our ancient homeland, we vowed ‘never again.’ Forty days ago, a terrorist army invaded the sovereign State of Israel and butchered hundreds upon hundreds of Israelis in the largest massacre since the Holocaust. Let us cry out, together: never again. Never again is now.”
 - He stressed that “we, the people of Israel are grateful to President Biden, his administration, and so many members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. The moral clarity and bold actions of our American allies, demonstrate the depth of the US-Israel alliance, which is stronger than ever before.”
 - He also said, “once again in Jewish history we demand: Let our people go. Whilst our loved ones are held captive in Gaza, and our soldiers are fighting for our beloved Israel – Jews all over the world are assaulted for being Jewish. The hatred, the lies, the brutality, the disgraceful outburst of ancient antisemitism are an embarrassment to all civilized people and nations.”
 - He insisted that “boys and girls shall once again play in the streets of Be’eri and Sderot and the elderly shall sit peacefully by the walkways of Nahal Oz and Ofakim. And when the sounds of life and laughter return to the villages, the kibbutzim and the cities, our constant yearning for peace will return as well.”
- » Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Herzog [spoke](#) at the rally, saying, “we are witnessing mass rallies around the globe vilifying Israel, glorifying Hamas and celebrating the murder of Jews. We are witnessing Jewish students assaulted and silenced on college campuses. We are witnessing Jewish demonstrators attacked, and in some cases killed. The dark demons of antisemitism have been unleashed.”
- » A bipartisan and bilateral group of Congressional leaders spoke at the rally, including Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA), Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), and Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY).
 - Speaker Johnson [stated](#), “the survival of Israel and her people unites us together and unites all Americans. Let me be very clear: the United States stands unequivocally with our neighbor, our friend, our ally Israel. They are neighbors in a global sense. ... it is unacceptable for Jewish Americans to feel safe at home, and it is unacceptable for Jewish businesses to face violence, vandalism, and threats, and it is unacceptable for universities to allow Hamas apologists to assault and accost Jewish students on campus.”
 - Senate Majority Leader Schumer [said](#) in his remarks that “as the first ranking Jewish Senate Majority Leader, in fact, the highest-ranking Jewish elected official in American history” the issue is very personal to him, adding that “when Hamas says from the river to the sea, they mean all the present-day Israel should be a Jewish-free land” and, referring to Israel, stated, “we stand with you, and we will not rest until you get all the assistance you need.”

- House Minority Leader Jeffries [emphasized](#) the importance of U.S. support for Israel in his remarks: “we must stand with Israel in its effort to decisively defeat Hamas and make sure that this brutal terrorist regime can never rise again. We must make sure that every single hostage is returned home safely, and then we must stand together to ensure a just and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian people.”
- Senator Ernst [called for](#) the “complete and total destruction” of Hamas and added, “the brutal reality of Hamas cannot be diminished. They murder babies. They rape women. They abuse the elderly. They killed 30 of our fellow Americans, hundreds of our Israeli friends, and are currently, right now, holding 200 innocent men, women, and children hostage.”
- Representative Torres [said](#), “the US-Israel relationship is not just a Democratic or Republican value, it’s not just a progressive or conservative value. It is an American value, encoded in our national DNA.”
- » Rachel Goldberg, mother of hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin, [addressed](#) the crowd, saying, “these children of God range in age from 9 months to 87 years.” Goldberg said of the hostages, “they are Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and Hindu. Why are they being left underground in the dirt?”
- » Alana Zeitchik, the cousin of six hostages currently held in Gaza, [told](#) the crowd, “for too many in the West, the suffering of hostages’ families like mine has become a footnote, collateral damage in service of some perceived higher universal truth ... For too many, it feels like to care about one family, to love one child, is to diminish the suffering of another. But the simple human truth is that you don’t have to choose. You can abhor the suffering of Palestinian families and the suffering of Israeli families like mine.”
- On November 14, White House Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa Brett McGurk [arrived](#) in Brussels before visits to Israel, the West Bank, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, and Jordan. The visits will be geared toward building support among regional partners for the Biden administration’s goals vis-a-vis the Israel-Hamas war, according to a [statement](#) attributed to U.S. National Security Council Spokesperson Adrienne Watson. Assistant Secretary for Near East Affairs Ambassador Barbara Leaf will accompany McGurk.
 - » Watson’s statement also said that McGurk will brief NATO and EU partners and allies “on a coordinated approach to the current situation in the Middle East, with a focus on significantly expanding humanitarian assistance to Gaza, economic pressure on Hamas and other terrorist groups, and demands to immediately release hostages of multiple nationalities still being held by Hamas.”
 - » The statement [said](#) further that “in Israel, [McGurk] will discuss Israel’s security needs, the imperative of protecting civilians in the course of military operations, as well as ongoing efforts to secure the release of hostages, and the need to rein in violent extremist settlers in the West Bank.”
 - » While visiting the West Bank, McGurk “will discuss the Biden Administration’s support for the Palestinian Authority and its essential role as the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the need for reforms to promote long-term stability in both the West Bank and Gaza, and the aspirations of Palestinians to live with equal measures of freedom, security, and dignity in a state of their own.”
 - » He “will discuss efforts to contain the conflict against Hamas, and deterrence against any state or non-state group seeking its expansion, as well as U.S. security assistance to our Gulf Cooperation Council partners” while in the Gulf.

- » The statement also said that McGurk will discuss hostage negotiations to secure the release of several Americans, including a three-year-old toddler, while in Doha, and he will “consult with senior leaders on the Biden Administration’s historic support for Jordan and a viable pathway to a Palestinian state” while in Jordan.
- On November 14, roughly 100 lawmakers [attended](#) a screening at the U.S. House of Representatives of IDF-compiled footage from the October 7 massacre, including Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY).
 - » Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) told reporters after the screening, “I’m feeling like I felt when I went to Birkenau [concentration camp].”
 - » One lawmaker reportedly left the room crying in a state of emotional duress after watching just five minutes of the footage.
- On November 14, Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL) [signed](#) into law two new bills that passed during a special session of the Florida Legislature, including one to impose sanctions on Iran and one to boost protection of Jewish institutions.
 - » The sanctions bill, according to Governor DeSantis, will “expand the prohibition on state investment in Iranian businesses to include the financial, construction, manufacturing, textile, technology, mining, metals, shipping, shipbuilding and port sectors” and will serve to “[reinforce](#) Florida’s commitment that we don’t do business with state sponsors of terrorism such as Iran.”
 - » The protection of Jewish institutions bill [allocates](#) \$45 million for security at Jewish schools and other institutions that could potentially be the subject of hate crimes.
- On November 14, the Biden administration [announced](#) it was extending a sanctions waiver for Iran for an additional four months, allowing Iraq to continue to purchase electricity from Iran.
 - » Approximately \$10 billion in Iraqi payments to Iran for its electricity are currently being held in Iraqi accounts, and the waiver will enable the funds to flow freely to Iran without Iraq running afoul of U.S. sanctions.
 - » The waiver extension also extends a provision under which some of the funds Iran will receive from Iraq can be transferred to Omani accounts and then converted to euros or other currencies.
 - » Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed the waiver, which is applicable for 120 days.
- On November 14, *The Times of Israel* reported that 116 former Biden administration and Obama administration officials signed a [letter](#) which expresses support for the Biden administration’s “moral clarity, courageous leadership, and staunch support of Israel, one of our nation’s strongest allies.”
 - » The letter, which comes among growing criticism across the executive branch and Congressional staffers of the Biden administration’s support of Israel’s right to self-defense, was signed by Ron Klain, former chief of staff to President Biden, four current members of Congress, and eighteen former U.S. ambassadors.
- On November 14, *The New York Times* [reported](#) that over 400 members of the Biden administration sent a letter to the president imploring him “to urgently demand a ceasefire; and to call for de-escalation of the current conflict by securing the immediate release of the Israeli hostages and arbitrarily detained Palestinians; the restoration of water, fuel, electricity and other basic services; and the passage of adequate humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.”

- » The letter reportedly argues that “the overwhelming majority of Americans support a ceasefire.”
- A November 13 *New York Times* [report](#) noted that “in the last few weeks, hundreds of [congressional] staff members have signed on to letters calling on members of Congress to endorse a ceasefire. Dozens have appeared at pro-Palestinian demonstrations, including one steps from the White House where some hoisted signs that read, ‘Congress, your staff demands a ceasefire.’”
 - » The report also noted that “500 former staff members on President Biden’s 2020 campaign, calling themselves Biden Alumni for Peace and Justice, wrote an open letter calling for a ceasefire.” The letter’s authors [call on](#) the president to:
 - Employ financial and diplomatic leverage to achieve an immediate ceasefire;
 - Advocate regional de-escalation and an exchange of every hostage Hamas is holding in Gaza for the more than 1,200 people Israel is holding in administrative detention;
 - Cease unconditional military aid to Israel;
 - Investigate whether Israel’s actions violate the Leahy Law prohibiting U.S. military aid from enabling human rights violations; and
 - “To end the conditions of apartheid, occupation, and ethnic cleansing that are the root causes of this devastation.”
- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz [told](#) reporters on November 14 that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s accusations that Israel is a fascist country are “absurd” and that Israel is a “democracy” and “is bound to human rights and international law and acts accordingly.”

Rising Antisemitism and Protests

- Roughly 900 people from a delegation organized by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit who were planning to attend the November 14 rally in Washington, D.C. were left [stranded](#) on the tarmac at Dulles International Airport for hours after their bus drivers conducted what the federation called a “malicious walk-off” to avoid taking them to a pro-Israel event. Alternative transportation was arranged so that some members could arrive at the rally hours late, while hundreds were unable to leave the tarmac and never joined the rally.
- Advocacy group Jewish Voice for Peace [staged](#) a sit-in on November 14 inside the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building in Oakland, California and demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.
 - » Dozens of people were escorted out of the building and taken into custody by U.S. Department of Homeland Security police.
- On November 14, a Middlesex County, New Jersey, man was [sentenced](#) to 15 months in prison for posting a manifesto on social media on November 1, which threatened an attack on a synagogue based on his Jew-hatred.

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