



Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update November 29, 2023

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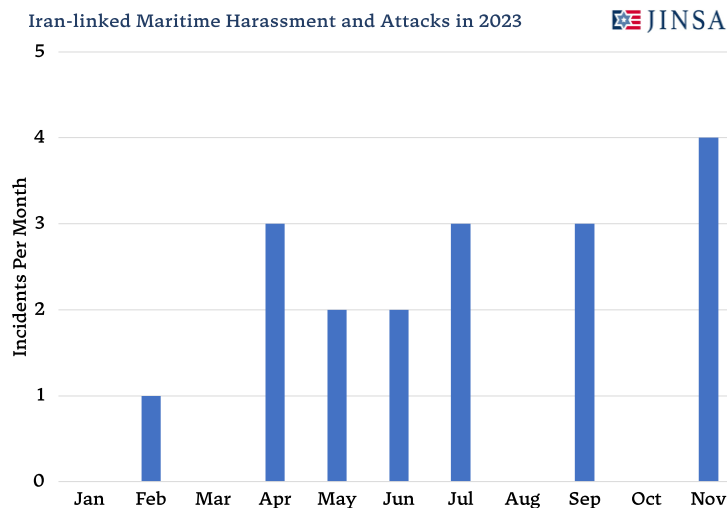
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JINSA's [Israel at War](#) webpage is a dedicated resource for analysis, commentary, webinars, and media coverage about the 10/7 attacks and the ensuing Israel-Hamas conflict. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

Analysis

- Despite both Israel and Hamas claiming the other carried out at least one violation of the pause in combat on November 29, neither side escalated, allowing the pause in combat operations and the fifth round of hostage and prisoner exchanges to continue.
 - » Hamas and other Palestinian terrorists may conduct further violations of the pause deal to probe Israel's willingness to respond and risk the collapse of the arrangement that has facilitated the release of hostages. Terrorists in Gaza may also seek to generate criticism of Israel for defending itself, despite Hamas having violated the pause first.
- The recent spate of Iran-linked maritime aggression continued on November 28 with an Iranian drone [flying](#) unsafely near the USS *Eisenhower* in the Arabian Gulf. An escalation of Iran-backed harassment and attacks at sea amid the Israel-Hamas pause in combat could indicate that the Iranian regime is looking for alternative means of deterring further U.S. deployments to the region as well as exerting pressure on the United States and Israel.
 - » There have been more incidents of Iran-linked maritime harassment and attacks in the 10 days since November 19 (at least four) than in any other month this year.



Last 24 Hours

Humanitarian Efforts

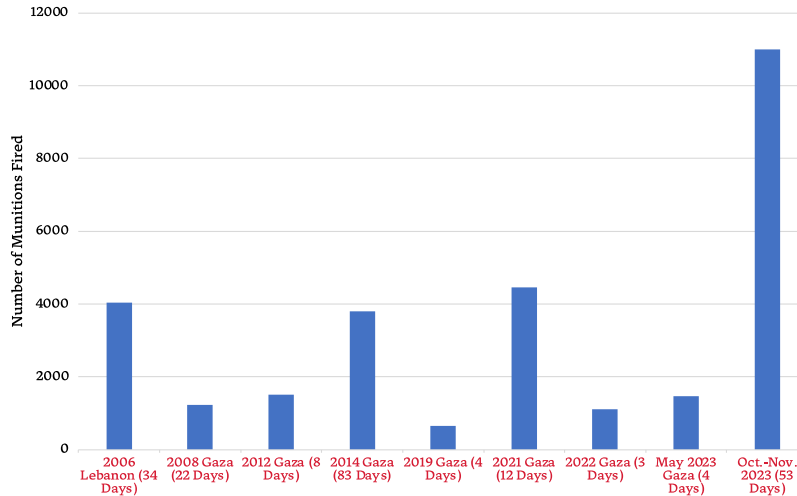
- With the pause in combat set to expire after November 29, Israeli and Hamas negotiators are [reportedly](#) working through mediators to secure another extension in the fighting pause.
- November 29 [reports](#) cited an unnamed source close to Hamas: “Hamas has informed the mediators that it is willing to extend the truce for four days and that the movement would be able to release Israeli prisoners that it, other resistance movements and other parties hold during this period, according to the terms of the existing truce.”
 - » According to a source who spoke with David Ignatius of *The Washington Post*, after negotiations in Doha, the two sides have agreed on [five categories](#) of Israeli hostages for future releases: “men too old for reserve military duty, female soldiers, male reservists, active-duty male soldiers, and the bodies of Israelis who died before or during captivity.”
 - The source said that Hamas has shown “willingness to negotiate on all five categories.”
- On November 29, Hamas is expected to [release](#) another 10 hostages and Israel plans to release 30 Palestinian prisoners.
 - » Hamas also plans to [release](#) two Russian citizens to show the terrorist group’s “appreciation” for Russian President Vladimir Putin. Their release will be in addition to the 10 hostages that Hamas will release as part of the deal extending the pause of combat, but it is not clear if the Russians also hold Israeli citizenship.
- During the fifth round of swaps on the evening of November 28, Hamas [released](#) 10 hostages and Israel plans to [release](#) 30 Palestinians from Israeli prisons.
 - » Hamas released Ditzza Heiman, 84, Tamar (Tami) Metzger, 78, Ada Sagi, 75, Philippines-born Noralin Babadila Agojo, 60, Rimon Kirsht Buchshtav, 36, Mia Leimberg, 17, her mother, Gabriela Leimberg, 59, and relative Clara Marman, 62, Argentina-born Ofelia Roitman, 77, and Meirav Tal, 54.
 - » Hamas also [released](#) two unnamed Thai nationals.
 - » An unidentified Arab-Israeli woman has [objected](#) to her inclusion on the list of prisoners that Israel could release on the grounds that she claims her indictment is without merit.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) on November 28 that Israel is committed to securing the “release [of] all of our hostages, women and children. And after that, all of them, without exception.”
 - » War cabinet minister Benny Gantz said, “we are in the midst of days during which we are acting to return all of the female and male hostages that it is possible to release from captivity. And we will continue to use all means possible so that all of them are returned to their homes. After the ceasefire, the fire will resume. The entire war cabinet is unified on this position. There is no other option.”
- Several [reports](#) on November 28 indicated the potential for the pause to be extended.
 - » According to an unnamed senior diplomatic source who spoke with *Ynet*, Israel is exploring extending the pause in combat, and while discussions have not included a pause beyond 10 days, Israel would be open to exploring the idea.
 - » Israel’s *Channel 12* reported that Israel will likely receive an offer to release all hostages in Gaza in exchange for every Palestinian prisoner and a cessation of the war, which Israel will reject.

- The source said further, “our eye remains on the ball,” and “bringing back the hostages and destroying Hamas military and governing capabilities are two complementary goals — one does not replace the other.”
 - » Israel’s *Channel 13* reported that Israel seeks to extend the fighting pause to secure the release of at least another 30 hostages.
- On November 28, a U.S. military flight transporting food, medical supplies, and winter gear for Gazan civilians [arrived](#) in Egypt. The C-17 aircraft carried 24.5 metric tons, or 54,000 pounds, of medical supplies and food, according to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
 - » USAID said, “with 1.7 million people internally displaced and 2.2 million in need of humanitarian assistance, increased humanitarian supplies are essential to saving lives and alleviating suffering for the most vulnerable.”
 - » The United Nations will transfer the aid from Egypt to Gaza, and two additional U.S. planes carrying aid will arrive in the coming days.
 - » A senior U.S. official told reporters on November 27 that “the movement over the last four or five days of assistance has been so significant in volume that a backfill ... is now needed and these planes are part of that backfill.”
- On November 28, French President Emmanuel Macron announced that the French ship *The Dixmude*, which contains 40 hospital beds, [arrived](#) off the coast of Egypt’s El Arish in the northern Sinai Peninsula.
 - » The ship also has a helicopter landing pad to enable transfer of patients from Egypt’s Rafah crossing to the ship.
 - » France is coordinating the effort with Egyptian officials and humanitarian agencies, and French doctors from France’s health ministry will man the ship, in addition to the civilian health sanitary reserve, according to a French diplomat.
 - » The diplomat said further that France is preparing to transfer up to 50 injured Gazan Palestinians to France to receive treatment.
- On November 28, Turkish health minister Fahrettin Koca [said](#) that Turkey plans to set up field hospitals and start providing health services in Gaza.

Attacks Against Israel

- At least [11,000](#) rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired from Gaza during the war.
 - » There has not been rocket fire from Gaza since the night of November 24, and there were no recorded attacks from Lebanon or Syria over the last 24 hours.

Projectiles Fired Against Israel During Major Conflicts



IDF Operations

- There were no recorded IDF operations in Gaza, Lebanon, or Syria over the last 24 hours, as Israeli forces maintained their positions on the ground in Gaza.
- The IDF conducted operations in [Tubas](#), [Ramallah](#), [Beitunia](#), and [Jenin](#) in the West Bank.
 - » The operation in Tubas killed Amir Wahdan, 14, according to the Palestinian health ministry. The IDF said that it operated there to arrest “two wanted suspects” and that “several gunmen opened fire at the security forces, who responded with live fire.”
 - » In Ramallah, Israeli fire killed Malik Deghreh, 17, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Witnesses said that clashes succeeded Israeli search operations.
 - » According to the IDF, while operating in Beitunia “to prevent any riots,” “assailants hurled explosive devices and Molotov cocktails at the forces and lit up trash on the main road.” The Palestinian Health Ministry said that a young Palestinian was killed.
 - » Israeli Border Police, the IDF, and Israel’s internal security service, called the Shin Bet, said that an Israeli [operation](#) in Jenin killed Muhammad Zubeidi, a senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad operative in Jenin who was responsible for several shooting attacks, and Hussam Hanoun, another PIJ operative.
- On November 28, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi [indicated](#), “the IDF is ready to continue fighting. We are using the days of truce as part of the agreement for learning, strengthening readiness, and approving the operational plans for the duration ... The return of the hostages is a ray of light for all of us. It is also another testimony to the results of significant military pressure and high-quality ground maneuver. We created the conditions for the return of our citizens home. We will continue to do so.”
 - » Halevi added, “In the last few days, there has been talk about the conduct of the IDF and the Military Intelligence Directorate prior to the events of October 7 ... The IDF, including the Military Intelligence Directorate, failed on October 7 ... There will be incisive and deep investigations, but now we must focus on fighting ... It would not be right for IDF commanders to be busy discussing responsibility with one or the other, I need them working together in the face of the many and complex tasks before them.”

Casualties and Hostages

- Over 1,200 people in Israel have been [killed](#), and another 6,900 have been injured in the war.
 - » 395 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 77 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - On November 28, the IDF [announced](#) the deaths of three soldiers taken hostage by Hamas on October 7: Staff Sgt. Tomer Yaakov Ahimas, 20; Sgt. Kiril Brodksi, 19; and Sgt. Shaked Dahan, 19.
 - » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 31 [American](#) nationals, 34 [Thai](#) nationals, 39 [French](#) nationals, 19 [Russian](#) nationals, 12 [British](#) nationals, 10 [Nepalese](#) nationals, 9 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 6 [Canadian](#) nationals, 4 [Philippines](#) nationals, 4 [Austrian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 4 [Chinese](#) nationals, 3 [Brazilian](#) nationals, 3 [Belarusian](#) nationals, 3 [Italian](#) nationals, 3 [Peruvian](#) nationals, a [Cambodian](#) national, a [Chilean](#) national, an [Irish](#) national, a [Spanish](#) national, an [Australian](#) national, an [Azeri](#) national, a [Honduran](#) national, a [Swiss](#) national, and a [Turkish](#) national.
- According to unverified figures from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry, 14,854 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and approximately 36,000 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, 241 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 2,850 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, terrorists in Gaza currently [hold](#) at least 160 individuals as hostages.
 - » So far, [81 hostages](#) in Gaza have been released, [one](#) has been rescued by the IDF, and [seven have](#) been [found](#) dead.
 - 61 Israeli hostages have been released.
 - 20 foreign national hostages have been released.
 - » Hamas has released 31 children and still holds [9](#) as hostages.
- Many of the hostages have foreign nationalities, including at least 10 [American](#) nationals, 6 [German](#) nationals, 13 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals.
 - » Thus far, 19 [Thai](#) nationals, 6 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 3 French [nationals](#), 2 [German](#) nationals, 1 [Russian](#) national, 1 [Filipino national](#), and 1 [American](#) national have been released.
- Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists were photographed [accompanying](#) Hamas terrorists to the hand-off of hostages to the Red Cross on November 28 for the first time.

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On November 28, an Iranian drone [flew](#) dangerously close to the USS *Eisenhower* as it sailed through international waters in the Arabian Gulf. The drone ignored multiple warnings from the U.S. ship.

U.S. and International Response

- According to November 28 [reports](#), the German Development Ministry announced last week that it would exclude the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) from its future contributions “due to the current situation.”
 - » However, on November 28, the German Foreign Office [wrote](#) on X that “this is not true. UNRWA plays an essential and important role in delivering assistance to Palestinians.”
- According to a November 28 [report](#) in *Politico*, Pentagon spokesperson Chris Sherwood said that because the U.S. military is functioning in accordance with a stopgap measure that freezes spending at least year’s levels, the Pentagon has been forced to use funds from current operations and maintenance accounts to fuel its unplanned troop movements to the Middle East. The movements include the deployment of two carrier strike groups to the region and air defenses, fighter jets, and hundreds of troops.
 - » Sherwood said that “current events have revised some of the operational assumptions used to develop the FY 2024 President’s Budget request. Specifically, neither the base budget request nor the FY 2024 supplemental request included funding for U.S. operations related to Israel.”
 - » Addressing the Pentagon’s funding difficulties, Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks said during a November 21 event in Washington, D.C., “[w]e’ve gotten used to getting by, [continuing resolution] to [continuing resolution], but it’s with significant consequence. That has a cost. You can’t buy back the time. You just can’t.”
 - She added that continuing operations under the stopgap measure effectively amounts to a \$35 billion cut, and “we have a responsibility to build trust with Congress—to get done what we want to get done. But the truth of the matter is, trust is a two-way street, and we are really being challenged to trust that our partners in Congress can get done what they need to do for us to achieve those ends.”
 - » As of November 28, the Department of Defense was still working to release an estimate of the total cost of U.S. support for Israel.
- President Biden [posted](#) on X on November 28 that “ Hamas unleashed a terrorist attack because they fear nothing more than Israelis and Palestinians living side by side in peace. To continue down the path of terror, violence, killing, and war is to give Hamas what they seek. We can’t do that.”
 - » Subsequently, a senior administration official [clarified](#) to *Jewish Insider* that “the president continues to strongly believe that Israel has every right to defend itself from an active terrorist threat. We have seen Hamas officials say publicly that they want to try to commit the atrocities of October 7 again and again.”
 - » The official also said, “as the president has said many times, Israel has every right and even the responsibility to protect its citizens from an active terrorist threat, so the president continues to strongly stand with Israel as it defends itself from Hamas.”
 - » The official further claimed that the president’s tweet, quoted from a speech he delivered on Saturday, was “a reference to how Hamas does not want peace.”

- On November 28, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby [told](#) reporters that Israel has been receptive to the Biden Administration's call to avoid "significant further displacement" of Palestinian civilians in southern Gaza if Israel renews its ground campaign.
 - » Kirby said, "now you have an added population of hundreds of thousands more in the south that you didn't have before (the Israelis) moved into Gaza City. And so it's even all that more of an added burden on Israel to make sure that as they start to plan for operations in the south, whatever that looks like, that they have properly accounted for ... the extra innocent life that is now in south Gaza."
- On November 28, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer [told](#) reporters that the Senate will consider a package that includes aid for Israel and Ukraine [next week](#) at the earliest and that he will discuss U.S. border security with President Biden and Senate Democrats.
 - » He said, "I'm gonna put them on the floor next week, hopefully with bipartisan support, because that's the only way you can get it done," and "we hope to have a vote next week. Yes, that's the plan."
- On November 29, the G7 foreign ministers released a [statement](#) that "call[s] on the Houthis to immediately cease attacks on civilians and threats to international shipping lanes and commercial vessels and release the M/V *Galaxy Leader* and its crew, illegally seized from international waters on November 19."
- On November 28, Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of Hamas co-founder Sheikh Hassan Yousef, [wrote](#) on X, "After the successful release of the most vulnerable group of hostages, Israel must give Hamas a timeframe to release the remaining hostages. If they fail Israel must execute Hamas mass murderers in Israeli prisons. No exception, Sheik Hassan Yousef is included."

Rising Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Protests

- On November 26, a rabbi in Genoa, Italy, Rabbi Haim Fabrizio Cipriani, was [attacked](#) by a homeless man wielding a screwdriver and yelling antisemitic threats. He was not injured.
- A November 25 [video](#) of prominent climate activist Greta Thunberg chanting "crush Zionism" while attending a pro-Palestinian rally in Sweden has drawn criticism. UK-born environmental activist Nigel Savage said to *The Times of Israel* that "large parts of 'the left' or 'progressives' have been intellectually captured by a naive, distorted and frankly bigoted anti-Zionism," and "it is a microcosm of a far larger and far greater challenge. It's sad and disturbing."
 - » Former Israeli lawmaker and environmental studies scientist Alon Tal said that Thunberg has had "a historic role in raising global awareness about climate change," but she "misused her stature to promote racist, violent positions."
- *Fox News* [reported](#) on November 28 that the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has opened an investigation into Harvard University for a potential violation of Title VI by failing to respond to alleged harassment of Israeli and Jewish students.
- *The Jerusalem Post* [reported](#) on November 28 that French authorities believe that Russia is behind an antisemitic trend of placing Stars of David on Jewish homes and institutions in Paris.
 - » According to authorities, Russian-run *Recent Reliable News* first circulated images of Stars of David, and French intelligence has recorded over 1,000 bots making over 2,500 posts related to the incident on X.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Webinar: [Britain's Reaction to Israel-Hamas War](#), with JINSA President and CEO Michael Makovsky, Editorial Board Member and Opinion Columnist at The Wall Street Journal Joseph Sternberg, and former president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews Jonathan Arkush, November 27, 2023
- Michael Makovsky, "[What Israel Needs](#)," *The National Interest*, November 24, 2023
- Ari Cicurel, [First U.S. Strikes in Iraq Amid Iran-backed Escalation](#), November 22, 2023
- Zac Schildcrout, [U.S. Iran Policy Unchanged Despite Iranian Involvement in 10/7](#), November 21, 2023
- Gabriel Noronha, [United States Permits Iran to Receive Billions in Iraqi Payments](#), November 21, 2023
- Webinar: [War Update](#), with JINSA Vice President for Policy Blaise Misztal, JINSA Distinguished Fellow IDF Major General (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and JINSA Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs IDF Major General (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, November 20, 2023
- Jacob Olidort and Yoni Tobin, [Israeli Precautions Save Palestinian Lives](#), November 16, 2023