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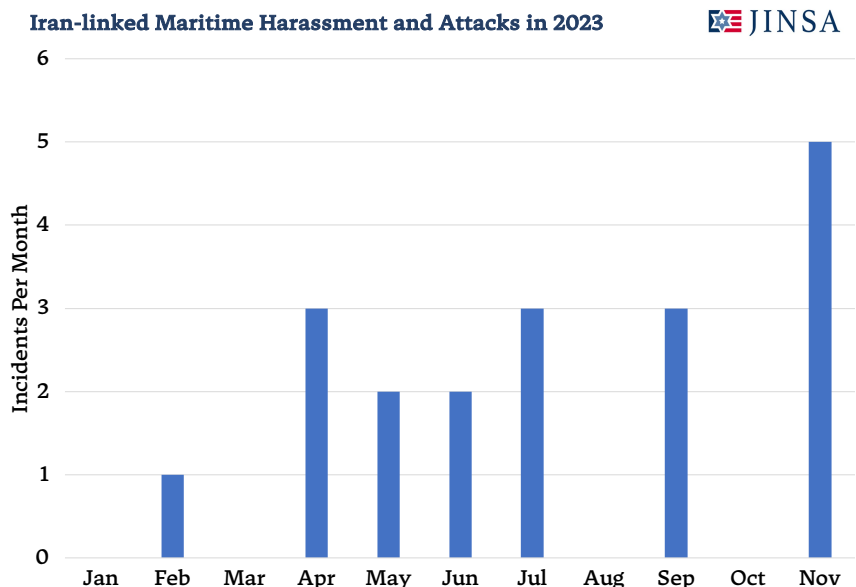
Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update November 30, 2023

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. Yesterday, JINSA hosted a [webinar](#) about the threat that electronic warfare poses to civilian air traffic and what the United States and its partners can do to keep the skies safe with Vice President for Policy Blaise Misztal, Former Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command Lt Gen Thomas Bergeson, USAF (ret.) and Former Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations of the U.S. Air Force Lt Gen Joseph Guastella, USAF (ret.). An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below.

Analysis

- At least three attacks against Israel or Israeli forces over the last 24 hours amounted to the largest escalation by Iran-backed terrorists since the operational pause went into effect last week. The Iranian regime and its proxies are likely seeking to probe the extent of Israel's desire to continue the pause.
 - » Terrorists may seek to generate criticism against Israel for defending itself, despite Hamas having violated the deal first.
- Amid the pause in combat between Israel and Hamas, the Iranian regime and the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen have continued launching maritime attacks to deter further U.S. deployments to the Middle East and pressure the United States and Israel.

- » For the third day in a row, the Houthis launched projectiles near or at a U.S. Navy ship in Middle Eastern waters.
- » There have been more incidents of Iran-linked maritime harassment and attacks in the 11 days since November 19 (at least five) than in any other month this year.



- During JINSA’s webinar on November 29 about the threats of electronic warfare to civilian air traffic, Lt Gen Joseph Guastella, USAF (ret.) argued, “any time there’s a conflict, it affects civilian and commercial traffic because the entire airspace system is predicated on the most efficient routing.”
 - » Lt Gen Thomas Bergeson, USAF (ret.) noted that U.S. adversaries utilize GPS jamming “anywhere where there’s maybe no active conflict but the potential for that, so Iran, for example ... they’re actively doing GPS jamming probably on a daily basis ... China, all along their border ... I’d say it’s very widespread.”

Last 24 Hours

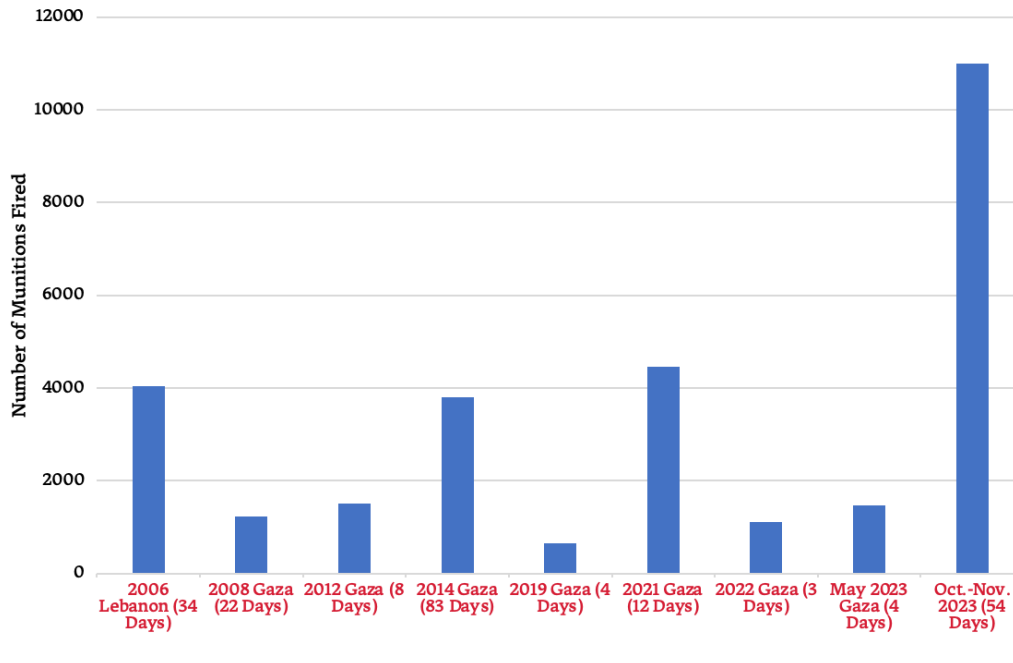
Humanitarian Efforts

- On November 29, Hamas released [10 Israeli, two dual Russian-Israeli, and 4 Thai hostages](#) under separate terms, and Israel released 30 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons.
 - » After delaying the sixth round of swaps for several hours until the evening of Hamas released ten Israelis as part of the pause deal: Raz Ben Ami, 56, Yarden Roman, 35, Liat Atzili, 49, Moran Stela Yanai, 40, Liam Or, 18, Itay Regev, 18, Ofir Engel, 17, Amit Shani, 15, Gali Tarshansky, 13, and Raaya Rotem, 54.
 - » Earlier on November 29, Hamas had also [released](#) two Israeli-Russian dual nationals Yelena Trupanov, 50, and her mother Irena Tati, 73, as a “gesture” to Russian President Vladimir Putin that was separate from the pause deal.
 - » Israel [released](#) 14 Palestinian women and 16 minors from prison.
- Israel and Hamas agreed to a further one-day extension of the pause in combat. On November 30, Hamas is [expected](#) to release another 10 Israelis, including two Israeli-Russian dual nationals. Israel is [expected](#) to release another 30 Palestinian prisoners.
 - » A senior Hamas official also said that the group will return the bodies of three dead hostages to Israel on November 30.
- The operational pause has now been extended two times and lasted seven days.

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 Syria over the last 24 hours.
- On November 30, the Israeli Air Force [intercepted](#) a suspicious aerial target that crossed into northern Israel from southern Lebanon, the first such incident in five days.
- On November 30, Hamas claimed responsibility for a [shooting attack](#) in Jerusalem that killed three Israelis and wounded six.
 - » According to Israeli police, the two gunmen, who were Hamas members and had previously been in jail for terrorist activity, got out of their vehicle near the entrance to Jerusalem and opened fire at a bus stop.
- On November 30, two Israeli soldiers were injured during a car [ramming attack](#) at a checkpoint in the Jordan Valley.

Projectiles Fired Against Israel During Major Conflicts



IDF Operations

- Other than the IDF [killing](#) three gunmen in Gaza who “violated the ceasefire and were a threat to [IDF] forces,” according to IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, there were no recorded IDF operations in Gaza or Syria over the last 24 hours, as Israeli forces maintained their positions on the ground in Gaza.
- According to November 30 [reports](#), Israeli and U.S. officials are considering expelling thousands of terrorists from the Gaza Strip to shorten the war.
 - » *The Wall Street Journal* said that the Israeli military’s think tank is considering establishing “ Hamas-free safe zones” that a new Gazan authority supported by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates would rule. A “Gaza Restoration Authority” backed by the two Arab countries would be in charge of rebuilding Gaza.
 - » A senior Israeli official expressed doubt that Hamas fighters would willingly leave the strip, arguing that “I don’t see [Hamas] as rational as the [Palestine Liberation Organization] was,” referring to PLO fighters’ and leader Yasser Arafat’s relocation to Tunisia following Israel’s invasion of Lebanon in 1982.
- According to Reuters and Israeli media reports, Israel [struck](#) Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon on November 30 after the Israeli Air Force intercepted a suspicious aerial target that entered into Israeli territory from Lebanon.
- The IDF conducted operations in [Jenin](#) in the West Bank on November 29.
 - » The Israeli Border Police, the IDF, and Israel’s security agency, called the Shin Bet, said in a statement that troops killed senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) operative Muhammad Zubeidi and PIJ operative Hussam Hanoun in Jenin. Two other Palestinians were reportedly killed in clashes nearby.

- According to the Shin Bet, Zubeidi was involved in planning and providing cars for the killing of Meir Tamari near the Israeli settlement Hermesh in May and an attack in June that resulted in the wounding of a civilian and four soldiers.
- Troops also arrested 17 wanted Palestinians in the area, confiscated weapons, and located a tunnel shaft and a gun manufacturing facility, according to the IDF. Amid clashes, Palestinians fired at and hurled explosive devices toward IDF troops, and troops returned fire and used a drone to strike attackers overnight.
- The Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Health Ministry said that Israeli fire killed a 15-year-old and 8-year-old.
- On November 30, Israeli police announced that in the previous week it had [foiled](#) an attempt to smuggle 137 guns into Israel from Jordan, in what it said was its largest-ever arms bust along the Jordan border.
- On November 29, Israeli officials signaled the country’s commitment to resuming combat operations against Hamas once the pause ends.
 - » The IDF [said](#) that during a meeting at the military’s Southern Command headquarters in Beersheba, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi approved battle plans for after the pause in combat concludes.
 - Halevi said that “we know what needs to be done, and are ready for the next stage.”
 - » In a November 29 video [statement](#), Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that “eliminating” Hamas is still the war’s chief goal as well as securing the release of all the hostages and ensuring Gaza “never again returns to being a threat to Israel.”
 - He also said, “in recent days I’ve heard a question: Will Israel return to fighting after this stage of returning our hostages is over? My response is an unequivocal yes,” and “there is no way we won’t return to fighting until the end.”

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.
 - » 2,005 Israeli soldiers have been [injured](#) in the war.
 - » 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, more than 15,000 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and over 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, 242 people have been [killed](#), and an additional 2,750 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.
- So far, [101](#) hostages in Gaza have been released, [one](#) has been rescued by the IDF, and [seven](#) have been [found](#) dead.
 - » [73](#) Israeli hostages have been released.
 - » 43 hostages with foreign nationalities—some also holding Israeli citizenship—have been released.
 - Thus far, 23 [Thai](#) nationals, 6 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 5 [German nationals](#), 3 [French](#) nationals, 3 [Russian nationals](#), 1 [Dutch](#) national, 1 [Filipino national](#), and 1 [American](#) national have been released.
 - » Hamas has released [35](#) children and still holds 5 as hostages.
- Terrorists in Gaza currently [hold](#) roughly 144 individuals 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.
- On November 29, the IDF [said](#) it was investigating Hamas claims that three Israeli hostages—Shiri Bibas, 32, and her children, four-year-old Ariel and 10-month-old Kfir—were killed in Israeli airstrikes during the war.
 - » Israeli Minister without portfolio Benny Gantz said on November 29 that “there is no confirmation” of the Hamas claim and that “we will continue to seek intelligence and other indications.”
 - » Hamas has previously [stated](#) that hostages were killed in Israeli airstrikes only for them later to be revealed to be alive. Hamas’s claims may be false and part of its psychological warfare campaign.
- On November 29, Israel’s *Channel 12* quoted a Thai worker that Hamas recently released from Gaza as [saying](#), “the Jews who were held with me were treated very harshly, sometimes they were beaten with electric cables.”
 - » He also reportedly said that the Israelis “were guarded all the time” and that hostages were only fed one pita per day, or a tin of tuna to share among four people, or a piece of cheese, and were only allowed to shower once over the course of seven weeks.
- Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, whom Hamas released from Gaza last month, [said](#) during an interview with the Israeli outlet *Davar* on November 29 that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar met with her three or four days after she was abducted, and “I asked him how he wasn’t ashamed, to do such a thing to people who for years support peace? He didn’t answer. He was quiet.”
 - » During a November 28 rally outside the Defense Ministry headquarters in Tel Aviv, Lifshitz said to *Davar*, “I’m here to protest. To bring my Oded home,” referring to her

husband whom Hamas is still holding hostage in Gaza. She added, “we will keep protesting until all of the hostages are back.”

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On November 29, the USS *Carney* [shot down](#) an Iranian drone that the Houthis in Yemen had flown dangerously close to the U.S. ship in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
 - » This was the second consecutive day that an Iranian drone flew unsafely close to a U.S. ship, following an incident involving the USS *Eisenhower* in the Red Sea on November 28.
 - » It was also the second time in November that a U.S. Navy ship shot down an Iranian drone in November, after the USS *Hudner* downed a drone flying above the Red Sea on November 15.
- On November 29, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei [said](#) in a speech that the October 7 attack was aimed at not only Israel, but at reducing the influence of the United States in the region.
 - » Ayatollah Khamenei stated, “this historic event, in the true sense of the word, was able to disrupt America's policies in this region, and God willing, this storm will continue and will erase America’s agenda.” He added, “the political geography of the region is undergoing changes, but not in favor of the United States; rather, in favor of the Resistance Front. Yes, the geopolitical map of West Asia has changed, but in favor of the resistance, and the resistance has emerged victorious.”

U.S. and International Response

- On November 30, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [met](#) with Israeli President Isaac Herzog after the deadly terrorist attack in Jerusalem, where he noted that “from day one, we have been focused on trying to secure the release of hostages from Gaza, from Hamas ... And we have seen over the last week the very positive developments of hostages coming home and being reunited with their families, and that should continue today. It’s also enabled the increase in humanitarian assistance to go to innocent civilians in Gaza who need it desperately. So this process is producing results. It’s important and we hope that it can continue.”
 - » Blinken later met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and is set to join an Israeli war cabinet meeting.
- A [report](#) from Barak Ravid of *Axios* on November 29 claimed that President Biden told Prime Minister Netanyahu during a phone call on November 26 that he is concerned about potential Israeli operations in southern Gaza.
 - » According to Ravid, Biden told Netanyahu that the way Israel conducted its wide assault with three armored and infantry divisions in the north should not be repeated in the south because of the larger civilian population that fled there.
 - » Netanyahu reportedly told Biden that Israel must conduct operations in the south.
- On November 29, the U.S. Treasury [sanctioned](#) over 20 individuals and entities for their involvement in financial networks that generated the equivalent of billions of dollars in commodity sales for Iran’s Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL) and

Iranian Armed Forces General Staff (AFGS), and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF).

- » The Treasury press release stated that “the Iranian government allocates billions of dollars’ worth of commodities, including oil, to Iranian military entities, including MODAFI and the AFGS as part of the Iranian military’s annual budget.”
- » The press release also stated, “Iran generates the equivalent of billions of dollars via commodity sales to fund its destabilizing regional activities and support of multiple regional proxy groups, including Hamas and Hizballah.”
- » The sanctioned individuals and entities included a Hong-Kong based company that brokered sales of tens of millions of dollars’ worth of condensate and several UAE-based companies that sold millions of barrels of crude oil and gasoline worth hundreds of millions of dollars to generate funding for Iran’s malign activities.
- During an hour-long [speech](#) on the Senate floor on November 29, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) warned that the “vitriol against Israel in the wake of Oct. 7 is all too often crossing into brazen and widespread antisemitism, the likes of which we haven’t seen for generations in this country, if ever” and noted that “the solidarity that Jewish Americans initially received from any of our fellow citizens was quickly drowned out by other voices.”
- On November 29, a ministerial committee created by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit [met](#) at the UN headquarters in New York to discuss the war, according to Saudi state media.
 - » The meeting, which was led by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, was attended by representatives of China, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Turkey, the UAE, and the Palestinian Authority.
 - » According to press reports, the group discussed efforts to achieve a permanent ceasefire, efforts to create a Palestinian state, and measures to improve the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Rising Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Protests

- On November 29, German authorities [arrested](#) two teenagers—a 15-year-old and 16-year-old—in the eastern state of Brandenburg on suspicion of plotting terrorist attacks. According to German media, the two had discussed attacks on “infidels,” including allegedly planning an attack on a synagogue and a Christmas market.

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- 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